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Fuel surpasses $5 mark. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 206

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Magofna handily prevails

» Magofna led absentee voting, early voting, election day voting

» With victory, Democrats' control of House strengthens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party was just 34 votes shy of securing victory last November, but this time she led the absentee voting, early voting, and election day voting to handily defeat Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party, 1,217-808 votes, during Saturday's special election for a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat.

According to the certified and official tabulation of the Commonwealth Election Commission, Magofna received 20 votes from absentee voting, while Vaiagae got 5.

See MAGOFNA on Page 4

Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party, center, poses for a group photo with other Democrat Party lawmakers during a victory party at Hyatt Saipan Regency's poolside Saturday night. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

AT A GLANCE

As of 8:08pm, Oct. 17, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **82.9%**

Days since last community transmission: **207**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,308
Fully Vaccinated:	29,657
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,880
Fully Vaccinated:	4,677
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	821

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	16,690	156*	16,846
Recovered	13,473	53	13,526
Active	2,942	156	3,098
Deaths	222	0	222

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	282	6	288
Traced via Travel Screening	245	6	251
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	3	0	3

*10/16=51; 10/15=105
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

Court denies sale of IPI's real property

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has denied USA Fanter Corp. Ltd.'s motion for the appointment of a receiver for the sale of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's real property.

Following a receivership hearing last week, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied without prejudice the motion filed by USA Fanter's attorney, Colin Thomp-

See COURT on Page 4

Woman gets 5-year sentence in death of 3-year-old

A Corrections officer leads Stacey Laniyo from the court after a sentencing last Friday at the Guma Hustisia. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman found guilty of child abuse back in July for the death of a 3-year-old boy was sentenced Friday to five years in prison, all suspended except for time she has already served, which meant she was immediately freed after her sentencing hearing at the Superior Court.

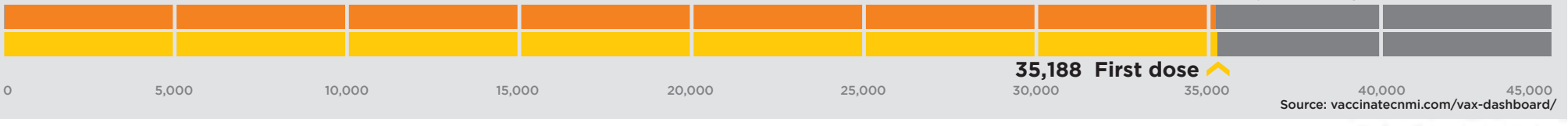
See WOMAN on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

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FREE
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4:30 PM - Registration Opens
*Free #DVAM t-shirts will be given out while supplies last.
5:15 PM - Roadside Waving
5:30 PM - Walk & Roll
6:30 PM - Candlelight Vigil
THURSDAY, OCT. 21 at 4:30PM
at NMI MUSEUM (across Sugar King Park)
Candlelight Vigil
Join us at 6:30pm to light a candle to remember victims we lost to domestic violence after the Purple Wave, Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence.
RAISE AWARENESS AND REMEMBER THE 3 W'S
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WASH YOUR HANDS.
WATCH YOUR DISTANCE.
This project is supported by Grant No. 2001MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibitions are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Local

Attorney General Edward Manibusan, right, swears in Chester Hinds as the new chief prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chester Hinds is promoted to OAG's chief prosecutor

Attorney General Edward Manibusan announced Friday the promotion of assistant attorney general Chester Hinds to the position of chief prosecutor of the OAG's Criminal Division.

"I am delighted to appoint Mr. Chester Hinds as chief prosecutor of the criminal division. Chester has made it evident in his role as an [assistant attorney general] for the last seven years of his unwavering commitment to the office and, most importantly, to the people of the Commonwealth. I have every confidence in Chester's new role as chief that he will lead the division and continue his service to the public," said Manibusan.

Prior to joining the OAG, Hinds worked as a deputy prosecutor for the city of Honolulu prosecutor's office where he was responsible for criminal matters such as domestic violence and felony cases. He completed a number of externships that included the Circuit Court of the First Circuit under the guidance of the Honorable Michael D. Wilson and the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"I am proud and grateful to [Manibusan] for the appointment to the position of chief prosecutor," said Hinds. "I have been a practicing attorney since 2007 and have continued my role as a prosecutor since joining the CNMI OAG in 2014. …I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the community in my capacity as a prosecutor, and as chief I want to continue to have the prosecutor's office serve the CNMI community, by seeking justice within the law. I want to continue to strengthen the bond between the OAG and law enforcement agencies that will allow us to work together efficiently."

A priority Hinds aspires to continue is the office's working partnership with treatment courts such as the Drug and Mental Health Court and treatment providers such as the Community Guidance Center, HOPE Recovery Center, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. "Incarceration is not always the answer and these treatment courts are a crucial component to cut recidivism and help those in need to become wholesome members of our community," he said.

Hinds earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law in Honolulu, Hawaii after receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Business from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. He is admitted to practice law in Hawaii and the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Written testimony is proposed for Torres' executive assistant

» Babauta says proposal is unreasonable

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Instead of making Frances Dela Cruz appear before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee to be questioned as part of its ongoing probe into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels, she should be allowed to provide, in writing and under oath, responses to written questions asked by committee members.

This was the proposal of Torres' Washington D.C.-based lawyer, Ross Garber, even as the committee insisted on summoning Dela Cruz, the governor's executive assistant, to personally appear before the committee. JGO Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) rejected Garber's proposal as "unreasonable."

Babauta told Garber in a letter last Friday that the proposal is, in effect, a proposal for the subpoena to Dela Cruz to be set aside.

"Live testimony is substantively different from written interrogatories and is not an adequate substitute," she said, adding that providing any witness with the questions ahead of time provides no assurances that the answers that would be submitted would be Dela Cruz's and hers alone.

Babauta said they see no reason to doubt that Dela Cruz is lawfully subject to subpoena and may be held in contempt if she fails to appear.

"Again, please be advised that the JGO Committee is mandated to investigate and, to this end, we are prepared to fulfill this mandate through remedies to enforce the subpoena, if necessary," she told Garber.

Torres hired Garber to represent him and the Governor's Office in the JGO's investigation into the governor's expenditures of public funds and travels.

Garber earlier objected to the JGO Committee's subpoena for Dela Cruz to testify, asserting that the executive assistant has testimonial immunity.

In his proposal to Babauta last Thursday, Garber said that Dela Cruz's written responses would be delivered within seven days of receipt of the committee's questions.

"Any assertion of privilege would be accompanied by a written explanation from counsel to the Office of the Governor," Garber said.

He said should the committee determine that Dela Cruz's responses are not satisfactory, she and the Office of the Governor will work in good faith with the committee to provide additional responses and, if necessary, revisit the topic of in-person testimony. "This proposal would certainly accommodate a desire by the committee to expeditiously and efficiently obtain accurate information from Ms. Dela Cruz," he said.

Babauta earlier had stated that Garber's objection has no legal basis and that Dela Cruz remains subject to subpoena for the hearing.

Garber, who is known for his expertise in impeachment proceedings, wrote to Babauta last Oct. 11, stating his objection to the subpoena for Dela Cruz to testify. Garber said the CNMI Constitution mirrors the separation and balance of powers embodied in the U.S. Constitution and thus grants testimonial immunity to certain Executive Branch officials.

Babauta postponed the JGO hearing set for last Thursday, and reset it tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10:30am.

Six incoming travelers test positive

Six more incoming travelers have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 288.

According to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news release yesterday, the new cases were identified by travel screening and confirmed positive through arrival testing on Oct. 15 and fifth-day testing on Oct. 16.

The individuals have been quarantined and are being actively monitored, and CHCC's contact tracing team has already begun reaching out to those who were in closest contact with the six. CHCC also reported that there are currently no active COVID-19-related hospitalizations in the CNMI.

In related news, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña and Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chairman Warren Villagomez were welcomed as guests during Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' media briefing on KKMP radio last Friday.

Muña shared that the vaccinatecnmi.com dashboard was updated to display how many individuals so far have received additional doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. As of Sunday, 1,659 individuals have received an additional shot. Muña added that 82.9% of the CNMI's eligible population, or just over 35,000 individuals in the CNMI, are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. ***(Joshua Santos)***

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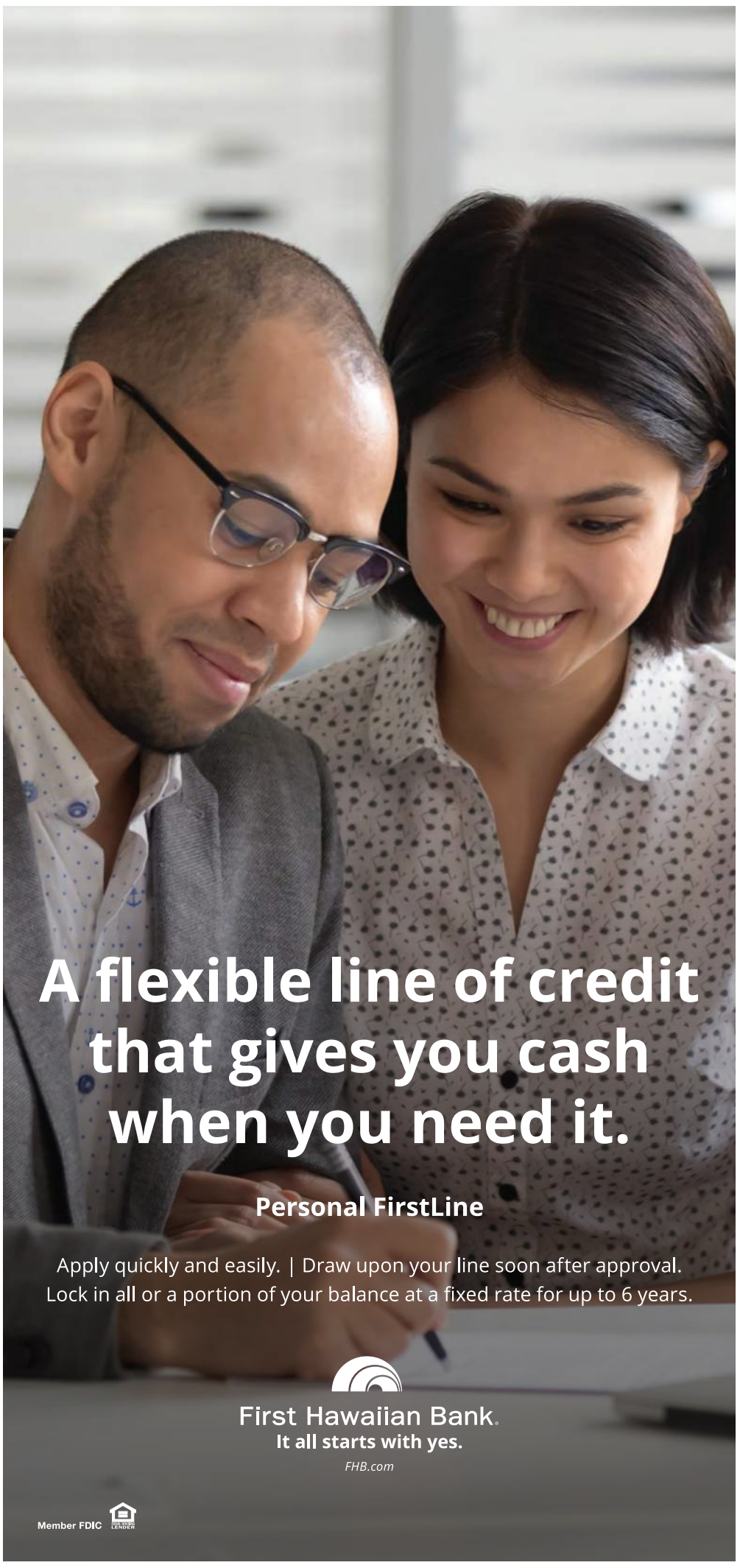
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Fuel surpasses $5 mark

The CNMI has officially surpassed the $5 mark in fuel prices, with oil companies raising their prices another 10 cents over the weekend.

Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead, raising its prices early Friday morning, just two weeks after its last increase. Shell Marianas followed suit, raising its prices by 10 cents late Friday.

Mobil raised it prices from $ 4.92 a gallon of its Extra fuel to $5.02. Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from $5.37 to $5.47 while its diesel also went up from $5.18 to $5.33.

One motorist, a 40-year-old male who was buying gas last Friday, decided to find humor in the situation, saying he might need to actually need to learn how to ride a bike with the trend in fuel prices.

"I might actually have to learn to ride a bike now with these insanely high prices. I didn't get past the training wheels stage in my childhood. I think it would be a bit embarrassing if people see me, a middle-aged man, riding through Garapan in training wheels," he said.

Meanwhile, another motorist, a 28-year-old male, found the increase upsetting.

"I woke up early today to gas my car and I was so shocked to see it was over $5. If I had known that it was going to go up so soon, I would've filled my tank the night before. This is upsetting because this only means that our utilities will also increase like power and water," he said. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

The new gas prices are displayed at a Shell gas Station on Middle Road.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

MAGOFNA

From Page 1

For early voting, Magofna obtained 647 votes, while Vaiagae had 528. On election day itself, Magofna got 550 votes, while Vaiagae received 275.

The Democratic Party monitored the election counting from the Hyatt Regency Saipan's poolside Saturday night, and that immediately led to a celebration soon after the announcement of the results. Lawmakers and supporters were dancing. Food and drinks were served.

Magofna said during an interview at Hyatt that she felt deep in her heart that this time around she was going to take the House seat because she was very determined. "I gave 100% of all my will and power that I had. So I felt it," she said. "What a journey it has been."

Magofna said she can't wait to get into the Legislature and work with all the other elected officials—and not just with the Democrats but also with the Republicans and independents. "When I said I want to run and serve the people, I meant just that. And this is not just [a win for the] Democratic Party. This is for the people. So this seat is a victory for the people of Precinct 3," she said.

At the November 2020 election, Magofna ran under the Democratic Party for a House Precinct 3 seat, but she landed in seventh place or just 34 votes shy from securing the sixth and last spot.

Magofna is a former budget officer at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Accounting from the University of Phoenix, and an associate degree in Accounting from the University of Hawaii.

In an interview Sunday, Vaiagae said the greatest part about the day after an election is that the work of the people continues. "I extend my congratulations to Corina," she said.

Vaiagae said it was a truly fulfilling experience to run in an election that fielded female candidates only. "It was a moment in our history that further proves the glass ceiling has been broken," she said.

Vaiagae thanked her family, friends, campaign committee, and supporters for trusting her with their confidence. She said it was truly a pleasure to be their candidate and that she will forever be indebted to each one of them.

As they move ahead from Saturday's election, Vaiagae calls on everyone to come together so that the most critical and pressing issues of the islands will continue to be resolved for the benefit of every person in the Marianas.

"Once again, I appreciate you all and will hold everything I've learned on this journey with you dear to my heart. *Biba* Marianas! God bless our Marianas!" she said.

Magofna and Vaiagae squared off to fill the House Precinct 3 seat that was left vacant by the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco last July 23.

The special election was crucial for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as the Democratic-controlled House is gearing for his impeachment on allegations of corruption. The House is currently controlled by the Democrats, while the Senate is controlled by the Republicans.

To include Magofna, the House now has nine Democrats and eight Republicans, and three independents. Two independents have allied with the Democrats, while one independent has allied with the Republicans.

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix said Saturday that people have spoken again and that the people are ready for change. "I'm so grateful. On behalf of the Democratic Party, our candidates, our voters, our supporters, our donors, we want to thank everybody that came out to exercise their rights to vote," Hix said.

She said they'd been campaigning for eight, exhausting, anxious, and exciting days. "And we are just so happy with the results. Just ready to move forward. This is really going to set the tone for 2022," she said as she also thanked CEC.

CEC board chair Jesus I. Sablan said the election and tabulation of votes went smoothly.

Sablan said if the tabulation of votes would have been a machine count, it would be done in 30 minutes to an hour. He said the challenges at the tabulation of votes was only the sorting of ballots.

The chairman said it takes time sorting and making sure that they're putting the right ballots on the right box.

Aside from Sablan, the other commissioners who counted the votes and certified the results were commissioners Proserpina T. Magofna, John Diego Attao, Esther A. Yatar, and Lelanie I. Manglona. Vice chair Doris Ann Aldan-Atalig is off-island.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said Precinct 3 has 3,613 registered voters. Counted last Saturday were 25 absentee votes, 1,175 early votes, and 825 election day votes, for a total of 2,025 votes, Igitol said.

Igitol said 19 ballots, however, were voided.

She said for absentee votes, one was rejected because the voter did not enclose his affidavit.

For early voting, 12 were voided, and for election day votes, 6 were voided, Igitol said.

CEC started the tabulation between 7:20pm and 7:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. The commissioners were done counting at 9:35pm.

"I appreciate my team, I had the greatest team ever and support as well as my board and my legal team," Igitol said.

Election day itself went smoothly and peacefully.

Voting started slow when the polling places at Garapan Elementary School and Oleai Elementary School opened at 7am. A large number of voters came at 11am at both polling venues.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres were making the rounds at two Republican Party tents near Garapan Elementary School and one tent near Oleai Elementary School.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) was also making the rounds at two Democratic Party tents near Garapan Elementary School and one tent near Oleai Elementary School.

After voting at Garapan Elementary School's cafeteria, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who is a Republican, walked with his wife toward the Republican Party tent. Some Republican lawmakers and supporters hugged and greeted him.

Palacios then walked to the adjacent Democratic Party tent where Magofna and other Democratic Party's members and supporters welcome him.

Speculation is rife that Palacios will run as an independent gubernatorial candidate in next year's election. Torres, who is the titular head of the Republic Party, has already announced his candidacy for re-election, with Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan) as his running mate.

WOMAN

From Page 1

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho sentenced 37-year-old Stacey Laniyo to a five-year imprisonment term, all suspended except for the four months and five days she has already served. This means Laniyo was released from Department of Corrections custody following her sentencing.

"To the offense of child abuse as related to hitting the minor child with a broom, the court imposes the maximum sentence of five years. The first four months and five days to be served, with the remaining sentence suspended. Defendant is given credit for four months and five days already served," Camacho said.

Aside from her imprisonment sentence, Laniyo was also sentenced to a term of probation for five years effective last Friday. If Laniyo violates any laws or rules while on probation, the court warns that her suspended sentence may be imposed in whole or in part.

In addition, Laniyo was ordered to serve 200 hours of community service, to submit herself to an evaluation by the Community Guidance Center, and was ordered not to be alone or unsupervised with any minor child under the age of 13 during her probation.

Camacho said the sentence imposed on Laniyo is appropriate for a number of reasons, including; deterrence, retribution, incapacitation, and rehabilitation, and that the sentence ensures that Laniyo will be deterred from committing a similar crime again.

"It is a specific deterrent as defendant will know not to commit any future crime. It is also a general deterrence as others will see this as a serious offense and will be deterred from such criminal activity," he said.

As for retribution, Camacho said the sentence imposed was ample punishment for the crime and justice for the child has been served.

"Retribution is punishment for the sake of punishment. The sentence restores justice and balance in the CNMI community. The people of the CNMI will know and see that criminals are held accountable.

Lastly, Camacho said, the sentence allows rehabilitation for Laniyo, ensuring that she has and will continue to reflect on her crime. "After serving her sentence, the court recommended counseling and other conditions. The defendant will have the time to reflect and to be rehabilitated. The court weights all these factors and finds that with these particular set of facts and information that defendant is candidate for rehabilitation," Camacho said.

Camacho allowed members of the child's family to address the court during the sentencing hearing. The child's family, in a compiled statement to court, said all they want was an apology from Laniyo following her sentence.

"We don't wish anything bad for her. We actually wish the best for her. All we want is an apology from her. We forgive her," the family said.

COURT

From Page 1

son, for the court to appoint a receiver for the sale of IPI's real property.

However, Manglona did grant the motion for the limited appointment of a receiver for the sale of IPI's liquid assets, including cash, its gaming machines, vehicles, liquors, and more. She informed the parties that she would issue the order within 24 hours following the hearing.

Back in August 2021, Manglona granted the request of USA Fanter to appoint Hong Kong-based Clear Management Ltd. to administer, collect, or sell any casino gaming property in which IPI has an interest; and to perform any other acts required to satisfy the judgment of $2,089,345.28. On Sept. 9, USA Fanter, through Thompson, asked the federal court to appoint a receiver for the sale of IPI's real property, arguing that IPI's liquid assets continue to diminish in value by the day and may not be enough to satisfy the $2.1 million judgment and its over 15 other creditors.

However, IPI filed its opposition last week through its lawyer, Stephen Nutting. "The appointment of receiver is a drastic remedy that is to be deployed only sparingly in the most extreme circumstances upon a proper evidentiary showing," he said.

Nutting argued that a writ of execution has been issued over assets valued by USA Fanter at $3.25 million ($1 million more than USA Fanter's judgment with interest), and only two months ago, a receiver was appointed to liquidate many of these assets.

"USA Fanter now seeks the appointment of a second receiver to seize and liquidate separate assets that lie at the core of IPI's casino and resort project. Overall, USA Fanter fails entirely to indicate why [its] already appointed receiver is not adequate to provide a basis for the extraordinary relief sought," he said.

USA Fanter sued IPI for its failure to pay the full amount due under a construction contract for labor and materials provided for the improvement of IPI's real property.

USA Fanter claims that IPI only paid USA Fanter $300,000 and the unpaid balance due was not less than $2,089,345.28.

Social Security announces 5.9% benefit increase in 2022

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 5.9% in 2022, the Social Security Administration announced last week.

The 5.9%t cost-of-living adjustment will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2022. Increased payments to approximately 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 30, 2021. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits).

The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $147,000 from $142,800.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal my Social Security account. People may create or access their my Social Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2022, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov.

For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2022 are announced. Final 2022 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security's Message Center.***(PR)***

GIFF celebrates 'New Voices'

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The 11th annual Guam International Film Festival is set to begin on Nov. 5, 2021. Friday, and will run every Friday and Saturday until Nov. 19, 2021.

This year, the festival will stream live online for free on the free PBS video app every Friday and Saturday from 3pm to 7pm. GIFF 2021 will also be locally televised by PBS Guam on KGTF Channel 12. Specific dates and times for films can be found on each film's individual page on this website.

The festival will showcase an official lineup of 34 films from Guam, the CNMI, Spain, France, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea and more.

This year's film festival will feature the theme of "New Voices," centered around the emergence of new Pasifika artists and perspectives from within a rapidly changing global community. "The theme 'New Voices' is not only representative of the growing community of Pasifika filmmakers, but is also a reflection of how we can elevate each other's voices and incorporate new stories as part of the international film community," said GIFF technical coordinator Lawrence "Encho" Lizama. Lizama joins the GIFF within the festival staff as a one of our new voices, along with Lyka Santos, social media manager and Cianna Yanger, graphic designer.

Returning to lead the GIFF grand jury is head juror Dr. Tom Brislin of University of Hawaii at Manoa along with Gabrielle Kelly of the American Film Institute and Dan Ferranti from the Warner Archive Collection and formerly from Warner Bros. Home Entertainment.

For more information regarding the festival, including film showtimes, visit www.guamfilmfestival.org. ***(PR)***

JKPL gearing up for 30th anniversary

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this Dec. 19, and there will be many events to celebrate the milestone.

JKPL director Erlinda C. Naputi said that renovations at the library—which includes replacing shelves damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018—have been ongoing, with the plan to complete these renovations before Dec. 19.

JKPL will also be launching what it calls a "Technology Mobile Express"; officially reopening the Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library in San Antonio; upgrading the technology of the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota and the Tinian Public Library; and expanding the schedule of the "Bookmobile," which makes weekly visits to various Saipan communities.

Naputi clarified that the San Antonio library has been open for some time for a soft opening, but it has not been fully launched yet. This launch, she said, will be part of festivities on Dec. 19.

JKPL's celebration will kick off with an event in November, but Naputi said that details are "hush-hush" for now.

Currently happening this month at the library is "Book-A-Treat" from Oct. 29 to Halloween on Oct. 31. The event is a three-day, indoor, appointment-only event where children can visit the library and do indoor "trick-or-treating" in costume at the library. JKPL asks the community to call 670-235-7322 or 670-235-7315 to book an appointment. ***(Joshua Santos)***

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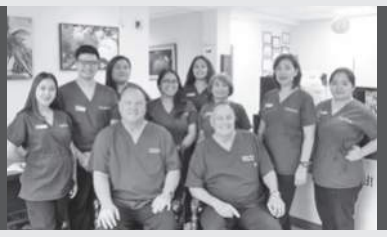

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IT&E

Series to examine US' colonies problem via racial equity lens

This fall, Equally American is hosting an exciting three-part series that will bring together a diverse array of thought leaders to examine the connection between racism and the ongoing disenfranchisement and discrimination faced by residents of U.S. territories.

"Over the next few months all three branches of the federal government will be making major decisions that will either help bring an end to the second-class treatment of citizens in the territories or continue to perpetuate inequality," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American. "Given all this, we wanted to host a series of conversations that look at what we call 'America's colonies problem' through the lens of systemic racial discrimination. As the United States begins to seriously grapple with its legacy of racial discrimination, it is important that America's colonies problem be a part of that discussion. Simply put, there should be no colonies or second-class citizens in the United States."

Part I of the series is "Separate and Unequal": The Insular Cases, Race, and Discrimination in U.S. Territories, a virtual conversation on systemic racism and the legal foundation of America's colonies problem with Guam Attorney General Leevin T. Camacho, D.C. Attorney General Karl A. Racine, Columbia law professor Christina D. Ponsa-Kraus, and ACLU attorney Adriel I. Cepeda Derieux, moderated by Weare. The virtual conversation will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 19, from 5-6pm ET (Wednesday, Oct. 20, from 7am to 8am Guam time).

The event is timely as the Supreme Court will hold oral argument on Nov. 9 in United States v. Vaello Madero, a case that will determine whether it is unconstitutional to deny otherwise eligible U.S. citizens access to Supplemental Security Income benefits on the sole ground they live in Puerto Rico or other territories.

Part II of the series is titled The Left and Right's Blindspot in Systemic Racism: America's Colonies Problem and will be a virtual conversation with current and former elected officials from U.S. territories on how residents of the territories are often left out of broader national conversations about systemic racism and what can be done about it. Speakers and dates will be announced in the coming weeks.

Part III of the series is titled Racial Equity and the Territories: What Can Philanthropy Do?, which will engage leaders in the philanthropic sector in a virtual conversation about what can be done to better address racial equity issues facing residents of U.S. territories. Speakers and dates will be announced in the coming weeks.

Equally American is a nonprofit organization that advocates for equality and civil rights for the 3.5 million citizens who live in U.S. territories—98% of whom are racial or ethnic minorities.

More information about Equally American is available at www.equalrightsnow.org. ***(PR)***

DROP-OFF LOCATION IT&E

Toys for Tots volunteers stopped by IT&E in Chalan Laulau last Oct. 13 to officially designate the store as a drop-off location for donations. From now until Dec.r 10, 2021, the community can drop off unwrapped toys that will be distributed to less fortunate children. Donations can be brought in from 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Pictured from left are Lee Tenorio, executive director, Saipan Chamber of Commerce; Marine Capt. Anthony Ramos, coordinator for Toys for Tots; Marine Sgt. Damian Viera; Shayne Villanueva, vice president, Saipan Chamber of Commerce board of directors; Rob Harrell, Customer Operations executive director, IT&E; Marine Master Sgt. Eugenio Ramirez; Maia Pangelinan, president, Associated Students of Northern Marianas College; and Gerald Crisostomo, vice president, Associated Students of NMC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Pacific Auto Leasing, LLC ("Pacific Auto Leasing") will file an application for withdrawal as a foreign limited liability company with the CNMI Department of Commerce, Registrar of Corporations. Pacific Auto Leasing is no longer transacting business in the Commonwealth and will surrender its Certificate of Authority. Pacific Auto Leasing hereby revokes the authority of its registered agent to accept service on its behalf. Pursuant to 4 CMC § 4661, the Registrar of Corporations is appointed its agent for service of process in any proceeding based on a cause of action during the time it was authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth.

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Saipan Northern Islands Delegation Committee on Zoning would like to respectfully request for written comments from the community regarding the following three bills:

1. H.L.B. 22-13 entitled "To amend Section 413 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, as amended, to allow for concrete hollow block manufacturing for conditional use within "Village Commercial" zones; and for other purposes."

Constituents may find the local bill language and view the proposed changes online at: https://bit.ly/HLB22-13 Please know this address is case sensitive.
You may submit comments via google forms at this address: https://bit.ly/HLB22-13COMMENT *Please know this address is case sensitive.*

2. H.L.B. 22-22 entitled "To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 05 of 29 to rezone certain districts to "Mixed Commercial"; and for other purposes." Constituents may find the local bill language and view the proposed changes online at: https://bit.ly/HLB22-22 Please know this address is case sensitive.
You may submit comments via google forms at this address: https://bit.ly/HLB22-22comment *Please know this address is case sensitive.*

3. S.L.B. 22-09 entitled "To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 23 of 29 to rezone certain districts to "Mixed Commercial" ; and for other purposes."
Constituents may find the local bill language and view the proposed changes online at: https://bit.ly/SLB2209
You may submit comments via google forms at this address: https://bit.ly/SLB2209COMMENTS *Please know this address is case sensitive.*

The SNILD committee on Zoning welcomes the general public to give comments regarding this change at the next Committee on Zoning meeting scheduled October 21, 2021at 1:30 PM in the House Chamber.

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, you may submit written comments via email to: rep.staffler@gmail.com OR at any of the bit.ly addresses above.

Please submit any comments on October 19, 2021 by the end of the work day, so that members will have time to review them prior to the meeting. Thank you for your consideration and time to give comments for these proposed legislation.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: J.J.C.D., Minor Child	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0153
By: JAKE EDWARD DEMAPAN REYES, Petitioner.	ORDER AFTER HEARING

This matter came before the Court for a Change of Name Hearing on September 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., in Courtroom 217A, at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Jake Edward Demapan Reyes (Petitioner) appeared pro se.

Based on the matter adduced, the Petitioner failed to publish and post the Notice of Hearing. Therefore, this matter is reset to allow Petitioner to publish notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands and post notice at the Courthouse for a period of ten (10) days before the hearing date.

This matter is continued on **November 17, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.** at Courtroom 217A. Petitioner is ordered to appear.

SO ORDERED on this date set forth above in the year 2021.

/s/ TERESA KIM-TENORIO,
Associate Judge

Name: Qin Liu
Address: P.O. Box 5060611
Phone: (670) 285-8273
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: **TAPAN SHAHA** An Incompetent Person	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0402
By: **QIN LIU** Petitioner	

ORDER SETTING HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP FOR INCOMPETENT PERSON

Upon petition of the Petitioner, and with good cause appearing therefore, a hearing on the Petitioner's petition for the appointment as guardian of **Tapan Shaha**, born on **01/01/1972**, shall be heard on the **14th** day of **February, 2022** at **9:00 a.m.** in Courtroom **217A**.

Petitioner shall cause this Order to be personally served on the alleged incompetent person at least ten (10) days before the hearing date. The alleged incompetent person must appear or be produced at the hearing scheduled on the date and time set forth above unless satisfactory proof by affidavit or testimony of a duly licensed physician, surgeon, or medical officer shows that (he/she) is unable to attend because of physical inability. Except, that if the alleged incompetent person is a patient at a hospital in the Commonwealth, and affidavit of the medical director of the hospital to the effect that such patient is unable to attend, shall be prima facie evidence of that fact.

It is further ORDERED that the Notice of Hearing and nature of the proceedings shall be served as follows:

1. By personal service or service by mail at least ten (10) days before such hearing date to each of the spouse, parents, children, or adult siblings of the alleged incompetent person residing in the Commonwealth. Any relative or friend of the alleged incompetent person may appear and oppose the petition.
2. By publication at least once before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
3. By posting at the Superior Court bulletin board for a period of ten (10) days before the hearing date.

SO ORDERED this **30th** day of **September, 2021.**

/s/ Teresa Kim Tenorio
JUDGE

Live Your Dream awardee Jamanda Manglona poses with her grandmother, Nona.

Live Your Dream awardee Kaelani San Nicolas.

Live Your Dream awardee Jennifer Benavente.

Soroptimist NMI confers 'Live Your Dream' award to 3 recipients

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating Soroptimist International 100th year this year and Soroptimist International NMI's eighth year, they awarded three recipients at their annual "Live Your Dream" awards last Saturday at the Mariana Lighthouse on Navy Hill.

All three recipients—Jamanda Manglona, Kaelani San Nicolas, and Jennifer Benavente—are pursing an education at the Northern Marianas College. This makes it the first time for Soroptimist International NMI to present the award to three persons.

"This year is very special as we're awarding three women who deserves to be called a "Live Your Dream' awardees," said SINMI president Marilyn Marron. "The points were really close—one winner was a point ahead of two women who were tied at second place and, with that, it wasn't so hard to decide to declare the three of them as recipients," she said.

The program is aimed at improving the lives of women in the CNMI by providing financial assistance to improve their education, skills, support their families and business venture they want to get into. The awardees are chosen based on a specific criteria: they have to be women who are going through college, while also being the head of their household.

"This is the first time we have three awardees and we are happy to be of help in the journey of these amazing women," Marron added.

For this year, the judges were magistrate judge Heather Kennedy of the U.S. District Court of the NMI; Les Ogumoro-Uludong, program manager for CNMI Health Education; and Elsie Skang-Ngewaki, non-instructional faculty at NMC.

One of the awardee, Manglona, who is taking up Liberal Arts Business Management at NMC, thanks SINMI for this opportunity to help her further her education. "I will use part of the award to get a laptop to help me with my online classes," she said.

She said she was overwhelmed with joy upon learning that she has been chosen to be an awardee. "I cried with my grandmother and daughter when we found out," she said. "…This is an amazing opportunity bless women like me and assure us that there is hope to succeed. The help and encouragement that SINMI spreads is that you should never be ashamed of being a single mom, pursuing school, and needing help. SINMI tells women like me that we're on the same boat and with perseverance and hard work, hopes and dreams come true."

Manglona, 31 and a mother of four, plans to also use part of her award to buy art supplies "so I can open my business and treat my children because they deserve it."

Twenty-eight-year-old year-old San Nicolas, a working mom pursuing a degree in special education that compliments her certification in American Sign Language from Guam and trying to accomplish Praxis exams, found out about the SINMI scholarship a month ago. "I read and watched the video and decided to give it a try. …I will use the award to continue my education. …I have been struggling, trying to pay bills, taking care of my daughter, and paying for Praxis exams which I need in order to move up in college and take upper courses. …The award will help me push to the finish," she said.

"Being awarded is both life-enhancing and changing. …My journey toward finishing my education and fulfilling my dreams has been really slow and…I am so glad that they believe in my dream to provide language access for deaf students and support parents because language should be provided not just in school but especially at home," she added.

The third winner, Benavente, 32, is a mother of two taking up business at NMC and is an aspiring entrepreneur. "I applied for the Live Your Dream Award because, as a college student, I want to try and grab every scholarship that is available to me and when I saw that I fit the qualifications they were looking for, I gave it a shot. When I won, I was a bit shocked because I do not usually win a lot of things but I am very happy," she said.

"Right now, I am currently making and selling *pinatas* called '*Pinatas* by Jen' through Facebook. I know it is not much but I made over 150 for different clients. …I plan to use the cash award to help me finish school and pursue my small business," she added.

Saturday's event was hosted by Chris Nelson, while Division of Revenue and Taxation director Tracy Norita and 2018 Live Your Dream awardee Mercilyn Kaneshi Palec were the guest speakers.

Marron said that SINMI have a couple of projects in line for 2021. Their next project is Halloween, where they are working closely with Karidat Social Services. "We bring candies over there and then we provide meals for their Thanksgiving dinner. For Christmas, we provide gifts and a Christmas eve meal," she said.

Marron said that SINMI encourages more women to continue to help other women "because some of them go through lot and it makes a big difference to reach out. …We also invite more women to join SINMI because the more people we have, the stronger the collaboration among women and with that, we can make more impact and give help to more women in need," she added.

Soroptimist International NMI officers and members pose with the 2021 Live Your Dream awardees.

PHOTOS BY BEA CABRERA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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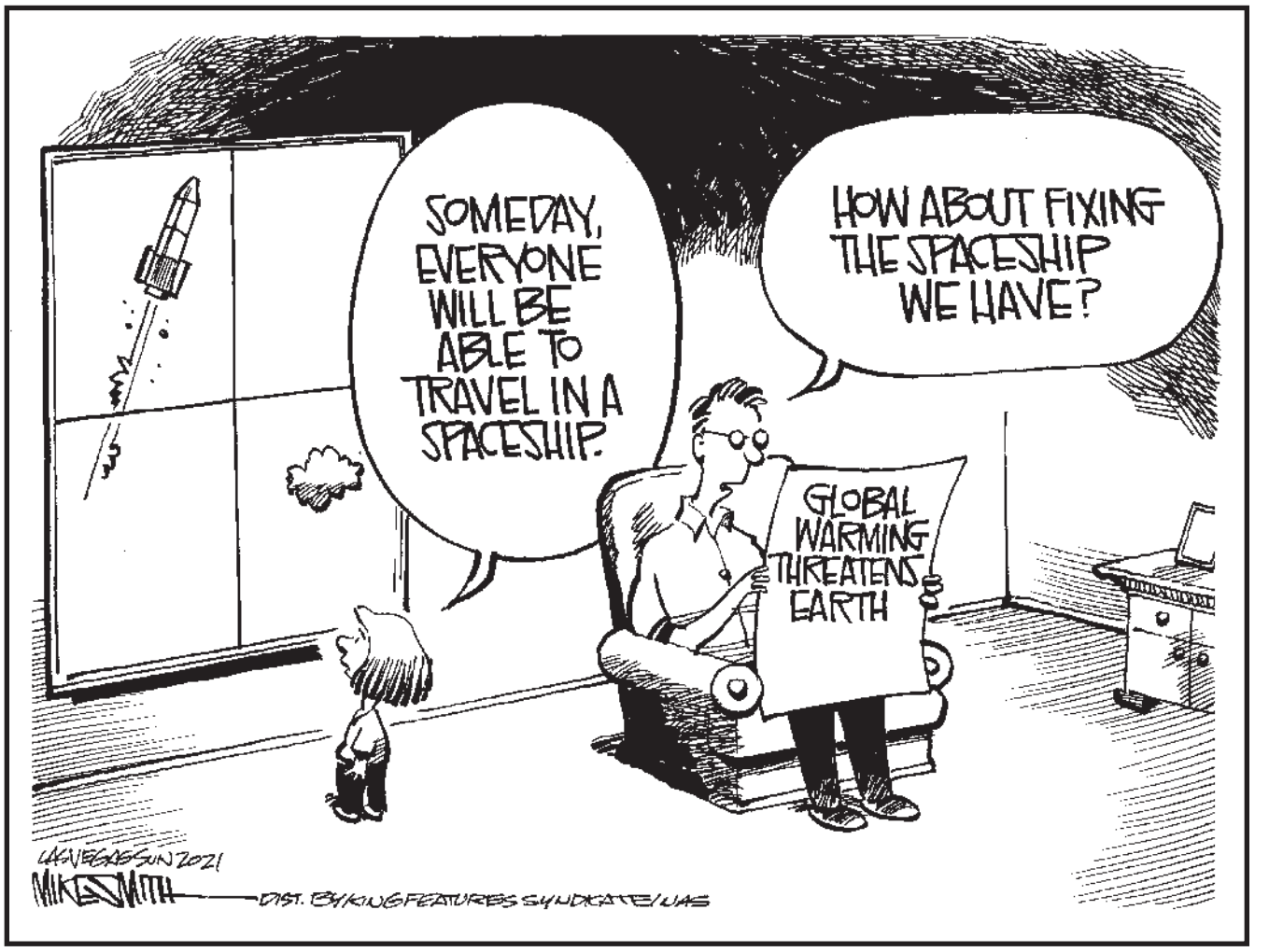
SOMEDAY, EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL IN A SPACESHIP.
HOW ABOUT FIXING THE SPACESHIP WE HAVE?
GLOBAL WARMING THREATENS EARTH
LAVEGASSUN 2021
MIKE SMITH
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EDITORIAL

80,000 green cards are about to disappear from the US

The Biden administration has acknowledged that in the last fiscal year the U.S. failed to issue roughly 80,000 green cards that should have been given to legal immigrant workers. The shortfall adds to a backlog of more than 1 million people waiting to receive employment-based visas. Congress should ensure those green cards are used—and then set about fixing a system that pointlessly burdens skilled immigrants and the businesses that employ them.

Each year, the U.S. issues a maximum of 140,000 green cards to immigrants sponsored by employers and approved for permanent residence—a number frozen since 1990. Another 226,000 "family preference" green cards are reserved for family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. In years when the ceiling for family preference visas is not reached, due to low demand or processing delays or both, the unused visas move to the employment-based category, but have to be awarded by the end of the next fiscal year.

The closure of immigration offices during the pandemic, along with restrictions imposed by the Trump administration, caused the number of family-preference green cards to plunge in 2020. As a result, 122,000 additional employment-based green cards became available. That should have been good news for workers in the green card queue, some of whom have lived in the U.S. legally for decades. But U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was unprepared to handle the surge in demand. Despite a late push by the Biden administration, the agency fell well short of awarding the full quota by the Sept. 30 deadline. If Congress doesn't act, those unused green cards will be lost for good.

This compounds the failure of a system that, even when running as intended, leaves hundreds of thousands of skilled and legally employed workers in limbo. On average, highly educated immigrants who've qualified for green cards can expect to wait 16 years before actually receiving them. Because of limits on the number issued to any single country, many immigrants from India who've been approved for permanent residence in the U.S. won't ever get a card.

Legislation introduced by two Republicans, Sen. Thom Tillis and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, would authorize the government to "recapture" the expired visas and roll them into next year. The bill has so far failed to gain backing from congressional Democrats, who are seeking to include broader immigration reforms in their $3.5 trillion spending package. At least one lawmaker, Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, has suggested he'd oppose issuing more employment-based green cards unless Congress also acts to protect the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.

This is wrong. Though Democrats are right to push for comprehensive immigration reform, it makes no sense to leave this immediate problem unresolved. Democratic leaders should promptly embrace Tillis's bill to let USCIS retain unused employment-based green cards and issue them

See 80,000 on next page

Is this our just desserts?

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

First came October's ominous headlines from half a world away: China was suddenly darkening Taiwan's air defense zone skies with record numbers of warplanes—150 sorties in the first two weeks of October. Their undeclared fly-by missions were far more menacing than Beijing's eruptions of propaganda-machined war clouds.

But on Wednesday, in case Western policymakers didn't get what is really at stake, the wizards behind Washington's conventional wisdom curtains just cranked out an urgent what-it-all-means: "Taiwan tensions," alerted The Washington Post's lead editorial's headline, followed by a warning-siren of a subhead: "China could try to conquer the island unless the U.S. and allies raise the costs."

Conquer. And now, as an overwhelmingly otherwise-occupied Washington begins yet another desperation debate over how-much/how-soon, I am thinking back to a most bizarre moment in a most bizarre day, back when the foundation of our latest China-Taiwan dilemma really was poured.

I was in the White House West Wing, in the office of the happiest and clearly most excited presidential national security adviser I'm sure I'll ever be fortunate enough to see. Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, the distinguished and globally famous former professor of international affairs who was then advising President Jimmy Carter, had just scooped up a fistful of photographs that he wanted to show me. He was talking in that quick, clipped, almost giddy way he got when he was excited and also waving around about a dozen photos as he talked. And that caused the photos to fly out of his hand and all over the floor. Undeterred, Zbig kept talking excitedly. He held up one photo for me to look at:

"Here's Cy ... and here I am ... and there is Deng right between us. ... It's amazing, when you think of it. The leader of a billion people—having dinner in my house just two hours after he arrived in this country! I mean, it really is rather amazing!"

It is. The photo, taken in the dining room of the Brzezinski's spacious home in the Washington suburb of McLean, Virginia, suburb in January, 1979, shows Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Zbig, and sitting there between them is the leader of China, the physically diminutive but geopolitically massive Deng Xiaoping. The previous May, Brzezinski was in Beijing negotiating the decision by which Carter would complete the process begun by Richard Nixon—the normalization of relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Deng kept voicing doubt that Carter would follow through; Brzezinski kept assuring him it was a done deal. Finally, Brzezinski added a personal gesture, telling Deng: "It will occur. And I want you to come to my house for dinner when it does happen."

Deng agreed.

But the most controversial hurdle had grown from the fact that Nixon had agreed with Beijing that there was just one China and Taiwan was part of China. Deng insisted that meant the United States could not continue to have its separate defense treaty with Taiwan's government. (Taiwan, of course, called itself the Republic of China and agreed that there was just one China—and Taiwan was the temporary capital.) Deng insisted America's Taiwan defense treaty must be canceled.

Both Brzezinski and Carter agreed. And when it was announced, Carter never publicly vowed to militarily defend Taiwan—a policy that came to be known as "strategic ambiguity." But the United States has continued to provide military equipment to Taiwan and has conducted military exercises with Taiwan, Japan and others. Beijing hates that.

Most recently, China's President Xi Jinping has made a number of militarily aggressive moves in the region. And President Joe Biden has sold Taiwan $750 million worth of artillery. A House proposal to add 13 ships to the U.S. Navy fleet would be the sort of action that would get Beijing's attention—and would please Taiwan, which remains forever desperate for reassurance.

Perhaps an even greater shot across the bow would be a non-naval coordinated effort of Western message diplomacy. Europe, the United States and assorted trade allies would do well to keep reminding Beijing it will be impossible for China to promote its global economic leadership if it moves militarily against Taiwan. Say it—and mean it.

EPILOGUE: Beijing's decades of leaders have always understood the power and subtlety of that linkage reality. On that night back at the Brzezinski's home, there was a moment over cocktails and caviar, when Brzezinski tried his hand at some light political humor—only to be one-upped by his guest. It began with Zbig telling Deng: "President Carter has had some domestic political difficulties with the normalization. Have you had any political difficulties?"

To which Deng quickly, yet subtly, replied: "Yes I have. In the province of Taiwan, there has been some opposition."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Seawolf and the Mariana Islands

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs *at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.*

The USS *Connecticut*, a prized Seawolf class submarine owned by the U.S. Navy, collided with an unidentified undersea object somewhere in the Asia Pacific region on Oct. 2, not far from Guam. Reportedly 11 crew members were injured.

It is doubtful that the public will ever know the specifics about the undersea collision because of risks associated with national pride, and the need to avoid any possibility of further amplifying an already sensitive situation.

For fellow citizens who may not be readily familiar with submarines, the Navy has several classes of undersea weapons of war. The boat that was involved in the early October collision is one of three submarines that make up the Seawolf class of undersea boats.

The USS *Connecticut* is the second boat in the Seawolf class and is over two decades old. These vessels were built to go to extreme places such as below the ice sheets in the Arctic circle to conduct persistent and clandestine surveillance activities in very dangerous undersea environments.

Representations past and present

The USS *Connecticut* is a weapon of war that was built to represent an America capable of demonstrating great technological feats tied to prosecuting war and violence to its advantage.

This submarine is several hundred feet long, can travel at speeds that are relatively swift, has a large crew, and has cruise missiles capable of delivering substantial firepower, presumably without nuclear warheads in this case.

The last time an American nuclear-powered submarine pulled into Guam from an undersea collision was the USS *San Francisco*, where nearly 100 sailors were injured and one reportedly passed away.

The dangers of the current American-Sino arms race

China continues to grow its military influence in and around its near seas' regions. The Chinese military has recently been increasing the numbers of sorties near Taiwan, sending several messages and signals that include their desire to show the world that they have the capabilities and intent to attack Taiwan, should the decision be made to do so. The Chinese view the presence of the British Navy in the area as provocative, in the sense that the British, the U.S., and Asian allies are conducting war exercises relatively near their country.

American leaders argue that Chinese actions in the near seas' region constitute aggressive behavior and that the ocean areas located throughout East Asia are of vital interest to first world western nations. The Americans also argue that China's near seas regions are open to international, western based norms and the U.S. is allowed to maneuver and transit throughout the overall area.

China continues down a path of doubling or tripling the number of nuclear-powered submarines it currently has, maintaining a host of submarines that are powered by diesel fuel, while protecting the relatively newly claimed reef spots upon which Chinese military resources are now placed.

In total, all these developments portend very dangerous times for all of us.

Questions remain about the *Connecticut*

What did the submarine hit? Was it an undersea mountain? Did the submarine hit an unmanned undersea vehicle? Was it a Chinese submarine? Was it a Russian submarine? Was it a DPRK submarine? Was it a surface ship? What was damaged on the submarine? What condition is the nuclear reactor on the submarine? Will radiation leak?

If we go to war, how is war to be defined and prosecuted against China? How common are undersea collisions experienced by the American submarine community? Did ongoing multinational war exercises involving the British have anything to do with this event? How much will repair work cost taxpayers? What capabilities are not being lost to the Navy with the USS *Connecticut* offline?

How will Guam benefit from emergency repair work? Are there programs in place to address emergent submarine repair work for villagers? What risks will Chamorros and villagers face, if anything, from this development?

Guam, the priceless submarine shore location for many reasons

The U.S. Navy has seen its share of vessel accidents at sea not far from Guam. In 2017, the USS *Fitzgerald*, an American destroyer, collided with a Philippine-flagged container vessel, killing seven sailors in Japanese waters. Shortly thereafter, 10 more sailors died aboard the USS *John S. McCain*, another destroyer, when it collided with a Liberian-flagged tanker near Singapore.

The challenge facing the Navy now is how will it go about getting more vessels operating at sea, in shorter periods of time, at a price tag that is manageable and reasonable? As it stands, every ship damaged or lost is a tremendous setback to this nation's Navy, because China continues moving forward on growing its fleet of military ships.

I want the American Navy to prevail against China at many levels.

As far as submarines go, at least the hulls of these boats presumably remain intact, the nuclear reactor engine rooms are presumably intact, and the ballast systems remain presumably intact. If not, we are all in deep trouble.

Veterans are ready to join the fight for electoral reform

By TODD CONNOR
The Fulcrum

Todd Connor is the founder of Bunker Labs and the Collective Academy and the chief executive officer of Veterans for Political Innovation.

Nearly half of all U.S. veterans are independent or "unaffiliated" voters. Following a recent change in Maine, 13 states now use closed primaries, where independents are excluded from participating in publicly funded primary elections. Other states severely limit the participation of unaffiliated voters. Congress has a dismal approval rating, consistently in the 15 percent to 25 percent range, and yet 95 percent of members are re-elected. And, because of uncompetitive districts, in 2020, only 10 percent of eligible voters elected 83 percent of our Congress.

The primary election has become the primary problem in this country. What does it say about a country where the very women and men who don our nation's uniforms and fight for our nation's interests are among those whose participation in our political process is so structurally limited?

The system is not working. Or, rather, it's working as designed, just not working for us—the citizens. You do not need to be an independent, a Republican or a Democrat to understand the fundamental design flaws in a system that continues to produce terrible outcomes: partisan gridlock, misguided priorities and dangerous dysfunction. When people don't see a path for their voice to be heard and well-represented, they will seek extra-political means —a very dangerous place for any country to be.

I recall a tax professor in business school explaining, simply, that complicated tax structures benefit the rich because they have the resources to exploit such a system. In this country, overly complicated closed primary elections, and built-in anti-competitive political structures, limit choices while benefiting the incumbents and insiders. But it doesn't have to be this way. In fact, it isn't this way in many other countries, a few states and several cities.

One powerful solution is called final-five voting, which combines an open (single-ballot) primary election, where the top five candidates advance (regardless of party), with a general election that uses ranked-choice voting to pick a majority winner. Final-five voting gives voters more choices, has candidates competing for ideas and things (instead of throwing fear and outrage against one singular opponent), and creates healthy competition and a fresh marketplace of ideas. In a final-five election system, fears of spoiler candidates and wasted votes go away. The structural incentives that reward extreme behavior, while preventing broader, consensus-based candidates from stepping forward, go away. Negative campaigning goes away. Final-five voting doesn't change who wins, per se, but it changes how you win. And that, it turns out, makes all the difference in the world.

We've been exhausted working within the current system: frantic fundraising emails, fear over what bad actors who only narrowly appeal to a very small, ideological primary election constituency will do, and never feeling like we are ever voting for candidates, but just voting against those we view as more dangerous. We wouldn't accept these conditions when shopping for cars, restaurants or ketchup at the grocery store, and we sure as heck should not accept them in our political process.

Final-five voting is informed and inspired by the groundbreaking work of Katherine Gehl and Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter as a solution to re-create healthy competition, once again, in our elections. There is a bill in Wisconsin that has garnered support from more than 20 elected officials, of both parties, who recognize we cannot continue our dangerous polarization death-spiral. A recent statewide poll found that 84 percent of Wisconsin voters believe Washington is broken. We need solutions, and with final-five voting they've found a great one.

Indeed, six southern states use ranked-choice voting for their overseas and military ballots. This incredible, common-sense innovation prevents thousands of wasted ballots. If ranked-choice voting is good enough for our military abroad, then ranked-choice should be good enough for all of us here at home.

Veterans for Political Innovation will bring veterans to this political fight, not as partisan actors but as patriots who fear the continued degradation of our democracy and who want to see citizens' power returned. It can happen. I think it will happen, if we do the work and implement these election innovations. In some states these election innovations can happen though the state legislature enacting new laws. In other states these reforms can happen by citizen ballot initiative. This could be, as other eras in American history have been, a golden age of innovation, the age in which competition is restored, extreme voices are quieted, and elections focus on, once again, what you're excited about and not just what you're scared of. It's up to us. I know where I stand.

80,000

From Page 8

next year. Congress should also provide additional resources to deal with staff shortages. Meanwhile, the Biden administration should streamline an absurdly complex approval process. This means, among other things, upgrading technology to allow applicants to file paperwork online.

Eliminating the visa backlog will eventually require lifting the arbitrary cap on the number of cards issued each year. Broader immigration reform is needed too. Those are bigger challenges—but an easy first step is to deliver the cards the government is already authorized to award. There's no excuse for failing to do even that.

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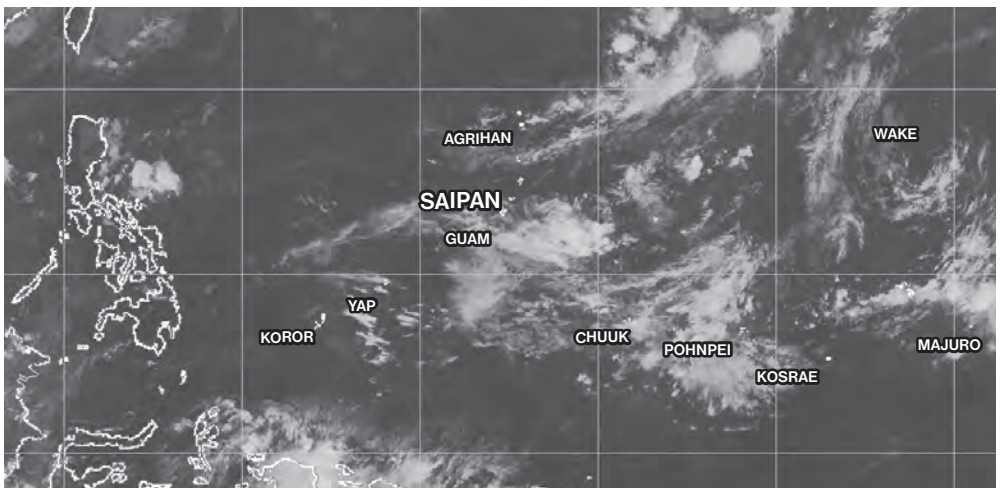
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Lows around 77. Highs near 87. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 30 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 50 percent.
88º / 77º	87º / 77º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:15 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds are light and variable across Guam with light southwest flow over the CNMI. Radar is rather empty but satellite shows tufts of cirrus drifting overhead from the east. Trade-wind disturbances are producing showers/thunderstorms farther to the east and southeast. Combined seas are around 4 feet with most energy from the northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85 / 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87 / 78 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89 / 79 °F
Chuuk	Showers in the Vicinity	86 / 79 °F
Pohnpei	Cloudy	87 / 78 °F
Kosrae	Parttly Cloudy	88 / 81 °F
Majuro	loudy	85 / 79 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:28 AM	12:35 AM	-
Tuesday	1:24 AM	1:20 PM	-
Wednesday	2:21 AM	2:06 PM	-
Thursday	3:18 AM	2:56 PM	-
Friday	4:15 AM	3:48 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain	60 / 59 °F
Beijing	Fair	60 /37 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84 / 75 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	78 / 74 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	61/ 48 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	69 / 56 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88 / 79 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	65 / 50 °F
Miami	Rain	59 / 55 °F
New York	Rain	59 / 55 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	68 / 53 °F
Paris	Clear	64 / 44 °F
Busan	Sunny	61 / 47 °F
Rome	Clear	68 / 47 °F
Salem	Clear	54 / 48 °F
San Francisco	Fair	63 / 51 °F
Seoul	Sunny	49 / 35 °F
Tokyo	Rain	59 / 49 °F
Washington, DC	Fair	59 / 50 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:28 AM	Low Tide	0.63
5:56 AM	High Tide	-1.63
12:19 PM	Low Tide	0.25
6:40 PM	High Tide	1.85

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

OIA awards $8.5M for energy initiatives in US territories

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced last week $8.5 million in grant awards provided through OIA's Energizing Insular Communities program to support energy initiatives in the U.S. territories. Of that amount, a total of $2,119,748 will be awarded to the CNMI.

"Energy costs in the territories are among the highest in the nation," said deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa. "We are pleased to provide support for these initiatives that help drive down the costs and promote cleaner energy options, a priority in the Biden-Harris administration."

The Energizing Insular Communities grants for fiscal year 2021 total $8.5 million and have been awarded to various projects in each of the U.S. territories as follows:

American Samoa

■ American Samoa Shipyard Services Authority - $360,000 for solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage system

■ American Samoa Telecommunications Authority - $670,000 for an energy-efficient chilled water HVAC system at the central office

■ American Samoa Medical Center Authority - $1,000,000 for microgrid, cooling tower, and LED lighting retrofit projects

Guam

■ Guam Power Authority - $154,526 for LED lighting upgrades at the Tamuning Elementary School

■ GPA - $1,291,938 for LED lighting upgrades, air-cinditioning central control upgrades, and a solar photovoltaic system at the University of Guam

■ University of Guam - $274,587 for 2023 Guam Strategy Energy and Action Plan

■ Guam Community College - $475,200 for a 100-kW solar panel system

Northern Mariana Islands

■ CNMI Department of Public Works, Division of Energy - $215,336 for the residential rebate program for Energy Efficient/Energy Star appliances in the CNMI, second year of program

■ CNMI Ports Authority - $260,500 for cool roof and LED lighting upgrades at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport

■ Commonwealth Utilities Corp. - $299,996 for a pilot project exploring automated electrical power distribution

■ Tinian municipal government - $328,236 for the installation of solar-powered light systems on public buildings and pathways

■ CNMI Energy Task Force - $370,680 for planning and coordinating technical assistance

■ CUC - $645,000 for a 2.5MW solar photovoltaic and battery storage integrated facility design

U.S. Virgin Islands

■ Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority - $1 million for the procurement of hybrid and electric utility fleet vehicles and equipment.

■ Virgin Islands Energy Office - $1.154 million for the Government Operations Fleet Electrification and Energy Efficient Transition project

The Energizing Insular Communities program is made available each year by Congress to support energy priorities in the U.S. territories. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance. ***(PR)***

OIA's full, final allocation of $55M CARES Act funds to insular areas

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announces its final allocation of $55 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act through the Technical Assistance Program to the insular areas.

The funds were distributed among the insular area governments to prepare for and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds were also distributed to several non-government organizations in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland to assist insular area populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are pleased to support the Biden-Harris administration's work with insular areas governments and nonprofit organizations as they work to protect families against the coronavirus pandemic and to address the ongoing health, economic, and social effects of the pandemic," said deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa. "Insular area communities in Guam, Hawaii, and the continental United States have been among the most heavily impacted populations, and we applaud Congress for including funding to help meet the needs of these communities through the [OIA's] Technical Assistance Program."

The CARES Act funds have and will be used in a variety of ways including the acquisition of medical equipment; distribution of testing kits and vaccines; distribution of protective gear, cleaning supplies, and food; quarantine expenses for repatriation of stranded individuals; construction of quarantine sites; and support for insular area populations in the United States who have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. The OIA TAP grant managers continue working with funding recipients to ensure that the funds are disbursed and utilized following the guidelines established under 2 Code of Federal Regulations Part 200: *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.*

Other partners in the federal government have provided important support to the insular areas to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic some of which have been compiled here for easy reference: https://www.doi.gov/oia/BeatingCovid19. ***(PR)***

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CARES Act GRANT AWARDS
Grants to governments

Recipient	Amount
American Samoa	$6,299,470
Northern Mariana Islands	$7,208,482
Guam	$12,039,565
U.S. Virgin Islands	$7,863,776
Marshall Islands	$10,037,390
Federated States of Micronesia	$4,277,445
Palau	$4,269,720
Subtotal CARES Act grants to governments	**$51,995,848**

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CARES Act GRANT AWARDS
Grants to non-government organizations

Mane'lu's Micronesia Resource Center One Stop Shop – Guam	$514,375
Pacific Island Health Officer's Association	$858,924
We are Oceania in Hawai'i	$1,033,100
Orange County Marshallese Community	$500,000
Oregon One Stop serving Micronesian communities	$97,753
Subtotal CARES Act grants to NGO recipients	**$3,004,152**
Total CARES Act Award to OIA	**$55,000,000**

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Ph: (670) 234-6866/9447/7670

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Part 400 § 100-90-401[1] of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) Section 8 Administrative Plan for Rental Assistance Programs, this is to inform the general public that NMHC is opening its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program's (HCVP) waiting list starting October 19, 2021. The waitlist will remain open until it reaches its maximum number of applicants. Interested families may pick up an application at the NMHC Main Office on Saipan or the Field Offices on Tinian and Rota, or visit our website at www.nmhcgov.net to download an application. Please submit your application in person at the NMHC Main Office on Saipan or the Field Offices on Tinian and Rota, from Monday through Friday (except holidays) between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. NMHC is not accepting On-Line or Email submission of applications as of this time.

NMHC Main Office	**Monday – Friday**	**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
Tinian Field Office	**Monday – Friday**	**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
Rota Field Office	**Monday – Friday**	**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

NMHC Housing Specialists will review the applications and formally contact applicants to schedule an eligibility appointment. For more information, please contact NMHC at telephone numbers 234-6866 or 234-9446 (Saipan), 433-9213 (Tinian), or 532-9410 (Rota).

[1] NMHC shall issue a public notice advising the general public that applications for Section 8 are being accepted. The public notice shall contain the places, date(s), and time, application procedures and any limitations on who may apply and shall be published in a local newspaper of general circulation.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147 | www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

October 18, 2021

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Election of Chairperson & Secretary of the Board
   C. Roll Call
   D. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM MATTER
   A. Board Action on QC Application of Marshall Holdings CNMI, LLC
IV. PERSONNEL MATTERS
   A. Economic Development Manager's Position – Update & Board Action
V. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Acting Chairman, CEDA Board of Directors

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-21-2024

Marianas Visitors Authority Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the TAIWAN MARKET

Submission /Closing Date: **October 25, 2021** Time: **3:00PM (ChST)**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after September 22, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM ChST, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA - RFP -21- 2024 - MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE TAIWAN MARKET".**

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before October 25, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette F. Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on October 15, 2021.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2021

Opening date: October 11, 2021 Closing date: October 29, 2021

Positions: (3) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) Maintenance/Custodial-I (CPA Rota)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF-I (CPA Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 29, 2021.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Special Election

Poll workers do the tallying and reconciling of election day votes Saturday night.

Commonwealth Election Commission commissioners certify the results of the special election after manually counting the votes at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday night.

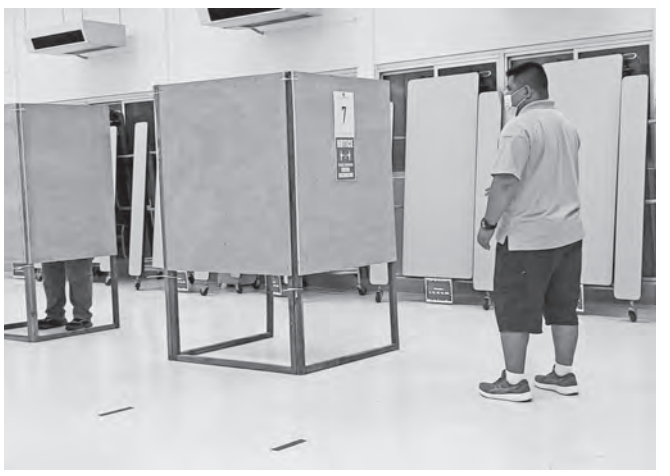
Corina L. Magofna and some Democrat Party lawmakers and supporters dance during a victory party Saturday night.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) makes the rounds at the Democratic Party's tent near the Oleai Elementary School.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan, join the Republic Party's tent with Marianas Visitors Authority's board chair Viola Alepuyo and other party supporters and members near Oleai Elementary School.

After visiting the tent of the Republican Party, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios proceeds to the tent of the Democratic Party and poses for a photo with Corina L. Magofna and other Democrat lawmakers and supporters.

After voting at the Garapan Elementary School, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his wife visit the tent of the Republican Party where he was greeted and hugged by some lawmakers and supporters.



A Commonwealth Election Commission poll supervisor watches as a voter exercised his right to vote for the special election at the Oleai Elementary School polling site.

Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party and supporters smile for Saipan Tribune at their tent near Garapan Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Asia

A woman walks past houses by Lake Batur which were damaged by an earthquake-triggered landslide in Bangli, on the island of Bali, Indonesia, Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021. AP

Bali quake kills at least 3

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP)—A moderately strong earthquake and an aftershock hit Indonesia's resort island of Bali early Saturday, killing at least three people and destroying dozens of homes.

The quake hit just before dawn, causing people to run outdoors in a panic. It struck just after the island has begun to reopen to tourism as the pandemic wanes.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 4.8 quake was centered 62 kilometers (38.5 miles) northeast of Singaraja, a Bali port town. Its shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) may have amplified the amount of damage.

A magnitude 4.3 aftershock followed. That quake was relatively deep, at 282 kilometers (174 miles).

Photos from the island showed homes buried in rocks and mud and buildings collapsed, walls splintered on the ground.

Gede Darmada, head of the island's Search and Rescue Agency, said the agency was still collecting updates on damage and casualties.

Apart from the three confirmed dead, at least seven people were reported hurt, with head injuries or broken bones.

The earthquake triggered landslides in a hilly district, killing at least two people and cutting off access to at least three villages, Darmada said.

It toppled homes and temples in Karangasem, the area closest to the epicenter, killing a 3-year-old girl who was hit by falling debris, he said.

"Nearly 60% of the houses in our village were damaged and can no longer be lived in," said I Nengah Kertawa, head of Bunga village in Karangasem, one of the worst-hit communities.

Houses and government facilities also were damaged in Trunyan and in Kintamani, a popular sightseeing destination with a stunning lake.

Known as the "island of the gods," Bali is home to more than 4 million mostly Hindu people in the mainly Muslim nation. It is famed for its temples, scenic volcanos and beautiful white-sand beaches.

ASEAN downgrades Myanmar presence in summit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Southeast Asian foreign ministers have agreed to downgrade Myanmar's participation in an upcoming summit in their sharpest rebuke yet of its leaders following a Feb. 1 military takeover.

Myanmar objected to the decision by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to invite a non-political representative instead of Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the grouping's chair Brunei said Saturday.

The 10-member bloc has been under intense international pressure to do more to force member state Myanmar to halt the violence that has left more than 1,100 civilians dead and to free scores of political figures, including ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

ASEAN foreign ministers held an emergency meeting late Friday after Myanmar refused to cooperate with the bloc's crisis envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof. He was appointed in August to mediate in the crisis but abruptly canceled a trip to Myanmar last week after he was told he would not be able to meet with Suu Kyi and others as he wanted.

ASIA BRIEFS

Taiwan's leader pays respects to 46 dead in building inferno

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president on Saturday paid her respects at a morgue to the dozens of people killed in a deadly inferno that ripped through an aging tower block earlier in the week. The fire in the southern city of Kaohsiung killed at least 46 people, according to authorities, after it broke out early Thursday morning. The flames engulfed the lower half of a 13-story building that housed many residents who were poor, elderly or disabled. President Tsai Ing-wen said she had come to the city of Kaohsiung "mainly to visit the wounded and offer my condolences to the family members" of the deceased.

6 combatants, 2 workers killed in fresh violence in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Assailants fatally shot two non-local workers in two targeted attacks in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Saturday night, police said, days after five people were killed in a similar fashion in the disputed region. The killing comes hours after police said government forces killed four suspected militants in the last 24 hours and claimed three of them were involved in last week's killings of three members of minority communities. Police blamed militants fighting against Indian rule for the Saturday attacks in the region's main city and a village in southern Kashmir and called the killings "terror attacks."

World

'God have mercy'

» Tigray residents describe life under siege

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—As food and the means to buy it dwindled in a city under siege, the young mother felt she could do no more. She killed herself, unable to feed her children.

In a Catholic church across town, flour and oil to make communion wafers will soon run out. And the flagship hospital in Mekele, the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region, wrestles with whether to give patients the expired medications that remain. Its soap and bleach are gone.

A year of war and months of government-enforced deprivation have left the city of a half-million people with rapidly shrinking stocks of food, fuel, medicine and cash. In rural areas, life is even grimmer as thousands of people survive on wild cactus fruit or sell the meager aid they receive. Man-made famine, the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade, has begun.

Despite the severing of almost all communication with the outside world, The Associated Press drew on a dozen interviews with people inside Mekele, along with internal aid documents, for the most detailed picture yet of life under the Ethiopian government's blockade of the Tigray region's 6 million people.

Amid sputtering electricity supplies, Mekele is often lit by candles that many people can't afford. Shops and streets are emptying, and cooking oil and baby formula are running out. People from rural areas and civil servants who have gone unpaid for months have swelled the ranks of beggars. People are thinner. Funeral announcements on the radio have increased.

"The coming weeks will make or break the situation here," said Mengstu Hailu, vice president for research at Mekele University, where the mother who killed herself worked.

He told the AP about his colleague's suicide last month as well as the deaths of two acquaintances from hunger and a death from lack of medication. "Are people going to die in the hundreds and thousands?" he asked.

Pleas from the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and African nations for the warring sides to stop the fighting have failed, even as the U.S. threatens new sanctions targeting individuals in Africa's second-most populous nation.

Instead, a new offensive by Ethiopian and allied forces has begun in an attempt to crush the Tigray fighters who dominated the national government for nearly three decades before being sidelined by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Ethiopia is one of the top recipients of U.S. humanitarian aid. The government in Addis Ababa, fearing the assistance will end up supporting Tigray forces, imposed the blockade in June after the fighters retook much of Tigray, then brought the war into the neighboring Amhara and Afar regions. Hundreds of thousands are now displaced there, widening the humanitarian crisis.

After the AP last month reported the first starvation deaths under the blockade, and the U.N. humanitarian chief called Ethiopia a "stain on our conscience," the government expelled seven U.N. officials, accusing them of falsely inflating the scale of the crisis. The expulsions were "unprecedented and disturbing," the U.S. said.

Just 14% of needed aid has entered Tigray since the blockade began, according to the U.N., and almost no medicine at all.

"There is no other way to define what is happening to the people of Tigray than by ethnic cleansing," InterAction, an alliance of international aid groups, said this month of the conflict marked by mass detentions, expulsions and gang-rapes.

"The Tigrayan population of 6 million face mass starvation now," former U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock wrote in a separate statement.

In response to questions, the spokesperson for the Ethiopian prime minister's office, Billene Seyoum, again blamed Tigray forces for aid disruptions and asserted "the government has worked relentlessly to ensure humanitarian aid reaches those in need." She did not say when basic services would be allowed to Tigray.

At Tigray's flagship Ayder referral hospital, Dr. Sintayehu Misgina, a surgeon and the vice chief medical director, watches in horror.

Patients sometimes go without food, and haven't had meat, eggs or milk since June. Fuel to run ambulances has run out. A diesel generator powers equipment for emergency surgeries only when fuel is available.

"God have mercy for those who come when it's off," he said.

In this photo provided anonymously, Rahwa Mehari, 4, is comforted by her father who says she first suffered from malnutrition and medical records show then developed a cerebral tuberculoma, at the Ayder Referral Hospital in Mekele, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, Monday, Oct. 4, 2021. Her father Mehari Tesfa, from the Kilte Awulaelo district, says he has not been able to farm or feed his family since Eritrean troops stole his water pump and generator during the war. AP

Health & Wellness

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The benefits of weightlifting

By ARMIN BROTT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Sure-fire, get-in-the-best-shape-of-your-life-or-your-money-back fitness fads have been around for thousands of years. Just in my lifetime, I've seen boot camps, Bowflex, CrossFit, hula hooping, Insanity, Jazzercise, kettle bells, P90X, Pilates, pole dancing, spinning, Tabata—and that's by no means a complete list. Over the years—centuries really—one method won't ever show up on a list of fads, but, despite the lack of hype, it may very well be the most beneficial of the bunch: good, old-fashioned weightlifting. Let's take a look at some of the proven benefits of weight training.

Testosterone

In excessive quantities, testosterone can be problematic. But in normal quantities, it motivates us, gives us energy, helps us take the initiative, and gives us a sex drive (women have testosterone, too). Below-normal levels of testosterone have been linked with depression, lack of drive, concentration problems, fatigue, irritability, physical weakness, diminished or absent sex drive, sleep problems, trouble coping with stress, your overall risk of mortality and more. Strength training boosts the body's natural testosterone production.

Overall health

Weight training has been shown to increase bone density (thereby reducing the risk of fractures in older adults), improve balance (which reduces the risk of falls that might cause fractures), reduce the risk of stroke by as much as 40%, lower blood pressure (some studies show that two weight-training sessions per week is as effective as blood-pressure-lowering meds), strengthen the heart, reduce diabetes risk and cancer, and improve longevity. UCLA researcher Arun Karlamangla, M.D. summed it up like this: "… the greater your muscle mass, the lower your risk of death. Thus, rather than worrying about weight or body mass index, we should be trying to maximize and maintain muscle mass."

Physical performance

Strength training helps offset the half-pound of muscle mass we lose every year after about age 30. It also increases your strength, flexibility and endurance. That makes us less likely to get injured doing other athletic activities. Strength, flexibility and stamina are also quite helpful to maintaining your sex life.

Theoretically, we spend about 30% of our life sleeping. But in reality, many of us are chronically tired. Regularly getting less than 6 hours of sleep is associated with a host of serious health risks, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, obesity, mental illness, car accidents and general cognitive impairment (see below). Researchers Patrick O'Connor, Matthew Herring, and Amanda Caravalho found that people with sleep problems who did regular strength training for 8-10 weeks had a 30% improvement in the quantity of their sleep. Older adults who did regular weight training reduced the number of times they got up at night compared to those who didn't do any exercise.

Mental Health

By changing the shape of your body in a good way, weight training may improve your self-esteem. It also training triggers a release of endorphins, which help reduce the symptoms of anxiety and depression. A little anxiety is a good thing— it keeps us aware, makes us focus, and gives us the energy to run away from dangerous situations. But too much anxiety can ruin your sleep, cause physical pain, and have a negative effect on your whole life. O'Connor, Herring, and Caravalho found that people who did weight training and cardio three times per week experienced less depression than those who didn't get that exercise.

Cognitive Function

Strength training builds strong brains as well as strong muscles and bones. People who lift weights tend to have a larger hippocampus, the part of the brain that helps with verbal processing and memory. According to O'Connor, Herring, and Caravalho, resistance training is especially beneficial to older adults, especially in memory and memory-related functions. Other researchers have found that weight training improves executive function, which is the brain's capacity to keep us organized and on task.

Social Status

Like it or not, we're animals. And like most other animals, we have a social structure that in many ways operates out of our control. Here's how it works: physically strong men tend to be more confident. Confident (and muscular) men tend to be more respected by others, are seen as better leaders and more competent in general. As a result, they're able to motivate others to work harder, they get more promotions, and they make more money. They're also seen as more attractive than their less-confident (and less-muscular) brothers. "Studies have demonstrated that people assign positive personality traits to drawings or photographs of mesomorphic (muscular) men and mostly negative traits to nonmesomorphic men," say researchers Timothy Judge from the University of Florida and Daniel Cable from the London Business School. For example traits ascribed to mesomorphic men were very positive (i.e., best friend, has lots of friends, polite, happy, helps others, brave, healthy, smart, and neat). By contrast ... ectomorphic men were described with a different set of negative traits (i.e., nervous, sneaky, afraid, sad, weak, and sick)."

Future of the Species

Besides making men more attractive to the opposite sex, weight training can have an influence on future generations. Weight training gives our DNA an improved capacity to repair itself. That keeps our genes healthy. And since our children get half of their genes from dad, at least some of our healthy genes will be passed on to our children, thereby making them healthier too. In addition, a 2004 study of Danish men found that muscular men had more semen volume, a greater number of healthy sperm, and were more fertile than either skinny or obese men.

Easy Implementation

Tapping into the benefits of weight training isn't all that complicated. While cardio exercise, almost by definition, can take a lot of time, many experts say that 30-60 minutes of weight training per week is plenty.

Armin Brott is the author of "Blueprint for Men's Health," "Your Head: An Owner's Manual," and many other works on men's health. Visit him at HealthyMenToday.com or send questions or comments to armin@healthymentoday.com. ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Cooling Stress Tips: Looking ahead is a great leadership skill

By JUDI LIGHT HOPSON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Do you realize the value of reading the future? This takes focus and a willingness to face the truth. Picturing what's likely to occur can help you prepare for it.

While no one should be looking for trouble, wise people anticipate what storms are on the horizon. Then, they plan accordingly.

For example, if your child is 10 years old, it pays to anticipate that child's desire to go to college. Can you start a college fund? Will your child need a tutor at some point? Keep your eye on helping your child succeed.

Or if your aunt is in her 80s, you might want to figure out ways to support her daily routine. If you know she isn't in great health, it pays to look at resources. Could you afford to hire household help for her? Will she need help with shopping and doctors' appointments?

"I've seen a lot of my patients get caught off guard," says a physician we'll call Albert. "The needs of their children, along with the needs of their older relatives, start to crush them. One day, they have a heart attack in their mid-50s and didn't see it coming."

By thinking ahead, you can help guide your own future. Be very honest about these types of questions:

- Do I see potential health problems developing with loved ones? For instance, if your elderly mother is losing her balance, maybe it's time to sell the two-story house she lives in.
- Will my own family finances work well after retirement? Many people have retired only to find out they need a part-time or full-time job to supplement income. Take a good look at what is truly going to work for you.
- How can I get some volunteer work within my own family? For example, do you have a niece or teenage grandchild who might stop by to check on certain relatives? Any of us can get into real trouble regarding our mental health by trying to manage everything alone.
- Do I or my spouse have health problems we're ignoring? No time for exercise and grabbing fast food too often can impact anyone's health. Face up to what needs to be done to ensure you and your mate feel your best. Buying and cooking healthy food might be the starting point.

"While no one has a crystal ball," says a manufacturing plant owner we'll call Troy, "we all need to take a look at what's working and what's not." Troy recently made the decision to sell his business because his wife's health is not great. He wants to enjoy more leisure time with her while that's possible.

It's also a good idea to look ahead in your marriage issues, needed goals for your life, and what you have control over. Minor adjustments can make life flow much better.

For example, you might hire a little household help, cut your work hours just slightly, trade your older car for a slightly better one, join a weekend hiking club or downsize your home or apartment. Be proactive to push your decisions forward. Don't just talk about needed changes.

Every family must have good leadership to thrive. Start by making several small decisions to see how your leadership is working. Then, take a look at bigger decisions you need to make.

"Our family finances improved when we obtained a home equity loan to pay off my old college debts," says a father of three we'll call Brian. "Jumping on problems to whittle them down to size will definitely lower your stress."

Judi Light Hopson is author of the stress management book, "Cooling Stress Tips." She is also executive director of USA Wellness Cafe at www.usawellnesscafe.org. ©2021 Tribune Content Agency

Life & Style

Prince William: Before travelling to space, save the planet

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince William has criticized some of the world's richest men for using their wealth to fund a new space race and space tourism rather than trying to fix the problems on Earth instead.

William voiced his disapproval in an interview with the BBC aired Thursday, a day after the former "Star Trek" actor William Shatner became the oldest man to fly to space, in a rocket funded by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

"We need some of the world's greatest brains and minds fixed on trying to repair this planet, not trying to find the next place to go and live," said William, who is second-in-line to the British throne.

On Wednesday, the 90-year-old Shatner, who is best known for playing Captain James T. Kirk in the 1960s television series "Star Trek," briefly flew into space with Bezos' space travel company, Blue Origin. Billionaires Elon Musk and Richard Branson are also pumping resources into their own space ambitions.

William

Asked whether he would like to become a space tourist, William said "I have absolutely no interest in going that high."

"I've been up to 65,000 feet once in a plane, that was truly terrifying," said William, who served in the Royal Air Force as a helicopter pilot. "That's high enough."

William, who is formally known as the Duke of Cambridge, was speaking about climate change ahead of his inaugural Earthshot environmental prize awards ceremony on Sunday and two weeks before a U.N. climate summit starts in the Scottish city of Glasgow at the end of the month.

During the star-studded ceremony at Alexandra Palace in London, which will see five sustainability projects win 1 million pounds ($1.35 million) each, William will be joined by his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge. The awards take their inspiration from the Moonshot challenge that President John F. Kennedy set for the U.S. in 1961 to land humans on the moon by the end of the decade—a challenge that was met eight years later.

The winners will be chosen by a committee including veteran broadcaster David Attenborough, actor Cate Blanchett and World Trade Organization director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Artist sues newly freed Bill Cosby over 1990 hotel encounter

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A prominent Bill Cosby accuser filed suit Thursday against the actor over a 1990 hotel room encounter in Atlantic City, New Jersey, before the state's two-year window to file older sexual assault claims expires.

Cosby

Los Angeles artist Lili Bernard told The Associated Press she was prompted in part by Cosby's recent release from prison. The 84-year-old Cosby has been free since June, when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned his 2018 sexual assault conviction in another case on procedural grounds.

He had served more than two years of a potential 10-year sentence.

The 57-year-old Bernard says Cosby drugged and raped her in a hotel room after promising to mentor her on his top-ranked TV show. She was 26 at the time.

New Jersey's two-year window to file sexual assault lawsuits that would otherwise be considered too old to pursue closes next month.

'The Batman' trailer unveils Pattinson in dark, violent turn

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Warner Bros. has unveiled its trailer for "The Batman," which features Robert Pattinson's first bone-crunching turn as a DC Comics superhero.

The trailer unveiled Saturday at the DC Fandome event shows Pattinson's Dark Knight methodically taking down bad guys despite being outnumbered and his Batsuit absorbing multiple bullets.

The footage teases a dark, bleak and violent version of Batman, with Pattinson's voice saying about the Bat-Signal: "Fear is a tool. When the light hits the sky, it's not just a call. It's a warning."

The trailer teases multiple iconic characters, including Zoe Kravitz's Catwoman, Colin Farrell as The Penguin and Batman's muscle car Batmobile tearing up the streets and emerging from explosions unscathed.

The trailer opens with a scene of police arresting a man in a cafe. The milk in his coffee is swirled into a question mark, the calling card of Batman's nemesis The Riddler.

Robert Durst hospitalized with COVID-19, his lawyer says

LOS ANGELES (AP)—New York real estate heir Robert Durst, who days ago was sentenced in a two-decade-old murder case, has been hospitalized after contracting COVID-19, his lawyer said Saturday,

Defense Attorney Dick DeGuerin said he was notified that Durst was admitted after testing positive for the coronavirus. DeGuerin told multiple media outlets that Durst is on a ventilator. Additional details on his condition were not immediately made available.

The Los Angeles Superior Court said in a statement Saturday that the court was notified someone present for the sentencing hearing for Durst on Thursday had tested positive for COVID-19.

"As a result, the Court will follow CDC and LA County Department of Public Health guidelines for assessing close contacts of the infected individual," the statement read.

No additional COVID-19 cases have been reported.

Durst, 78, was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without a chance of parole for the murder of his best friend more than two decades ago. Durst, who has numerous medical issues, sat in a wheelchair with a catatonic stare during much of the sentencing hearing.

"He was very, very sick in the courtroom," DeGuerin said Saturday.

He was convicted in Los Angeles Superior Court last month of first-degree murder for shooting Susan Berman point-blank in the back of the head at her home in December 2000.

The killing had been a mystery that haunted family and friends for 15 years before Durst was arrested in 2015 following his unwise decision to participate in a documentary that unearthed new evidence and caught him in a stunning confession.

Cher sues heirs of Sonny Bono over song and record revenue

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cher has sued the widow of her former musical partner and ex-husband Sonny Bono over royalties for Sonny and Cher songs including "I Got You Babe" and "The Beat Goes On."

In a federal lawsuit filed in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Cher alleges that former Rep. Mary Bono and other defendants have attempted to terminate provisions of business agreements Cher and Sonny Bono reached when they divorced in 1975 that entitled each to 50% of songwriting and recording royalties.

The lawsuit says that Sonny Bono's heirs filed notice in 2016 that they were terminating some of his song licensing agreements, but they "did not terminate, and could not have terminated" his agreements with Cher.

The breach-of-contract lawsuit alleges that the damages to Cher total at least $1 million.

Mary Bono's attorney said the family's moves are within their rights and the law.

"The Copyright Act allows Sonny's widow and children to reclaim Sonny's copyrights from publishers, which is what they did," attorney Daniel Schacht said in a statement. "Representative Bono remains open to continuing a private discussion about this, but we are confident that, if necessary, the court will affirm their position."

Cher, the 75-year-old Grammy, Oscar and Emmy winning singer and actor known for solo hits including "Believe" and film roles including "Moonstruck," began performing as a duo with Sonny Bono in 1964. The two later had a TV variety show. They were married from 1969 to 1975.

Sonny Bono become mayor of Palm Springs and later a California congressman for the area. He died in a skiing accident in Lake Tahoe in 1998, and Mary Bono, his fourth wife, won his seat.

Woman searching for a partner loathes first dates

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old woman who very much wants to find someone to share my life and start a family with. The problem is I hate dating, at least the early stages. To me, first dates aren't exciting; they're just plain awkward and nerve-racking.

I have tried everything to change my outlook on dating, but I still go into every first date with the same enthusiasm as I'd have for a root canal. I truly want a partner in life, but I hate first dates so much I Googled, "Is arranged marriage for me?" Please, do you have any tips for how to have a more positive outlook on dating?

HATES DATING IN MARYLAND

DEAR HATES DATING: As a matter of fact, I do. I don't know what kind of first dates you are having, but it might benefit you to make them more casual -- a lunch, a coffee, a movie or some other entertainment, so a conversation won't become a third degree. Rather than stress, if you regard a first date as a chance to make a new friend rather than an audition for a life partner, you might enjoy it more and so would your date.

DEAR ABBY: I'm concerned because there is tension in my family and I don't know how to resolve it. I'm 30. In the past, I've had anger issues that may have alienated some family members. I've worked on them and I think I've gotten better in recent years, but I'm still not perfect.

What concerns me is I think one of my brothers might be harboring resentment toward me, but he won't say so directly. I feel bad about the things I've done wrong and I'm willing to do what I can to make up for them, but I don't know how to do that if people won't communicate with me. How can I make things right and show my family I really do care?

LOST IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOST: It seems you may not be the only person in your family with unresolved anger issues. People handle their emotions in different ways. While you were overt in demonstrating your anger, your brother is the opposite. He demonstrates his anger with PASSIVE-aggression.

Show your family you care by continuing to work on your issues. Apologize to anyone you hurt and offer to make amends. Do the same with this brother in a written message, if necessary. After that, if he still refuses to communicate, recognize that the problem is his and stop making it your own.

DEAR ABBY: A friend brought a birthday cake to the restaurant where we were all meeting, and served it after the meal. I voiced my concern that it wasn't fair to the restaurant, since we used extra tableware and dishes for the cake, and deprived them of a possible dessert order. Is what she did acceptable? Or was I out of line to say something? (We left a large tip.)

NO DESSERT

DEAR NO DESSERT: If your comments dampened the joy of the occasion, you should have kept your mouth shut. Bringing a cake to a restaurant for a special occasion happens often. However, the polite way to handle it is to first check with the restaurant to be sure they don't have a policy against it.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

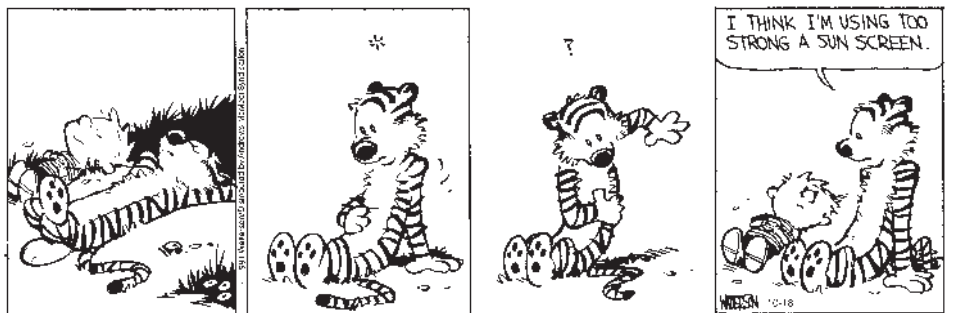
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



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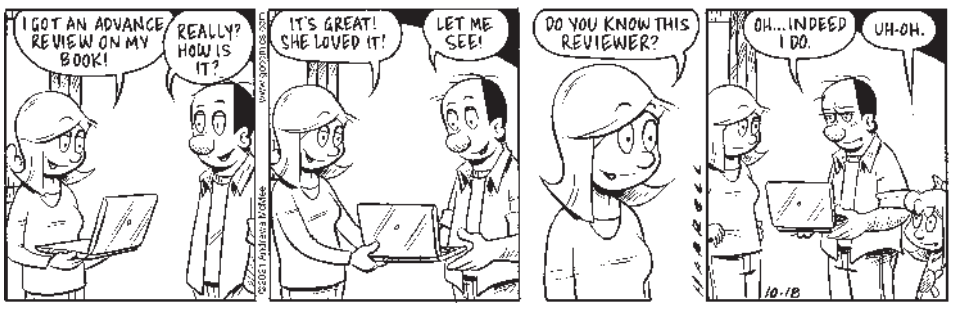
By Bryan Basset


I GOT AN ADVANCE REVIEW ON MY BOOK!
REALLY? HOW IS IT?
IT'S GREAT! SHE LOVED IT!
LET ME SEE!
DO YOU KNOW THIS REVIEWER?
OH...INDEED I DO.
UH-OH.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOUR HONOR, COULD I REQUEST ANOTHER DNA SAMPLE FROM THE DEFENDANT FOR OUR JURY DELIBERATION?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ONE YOU WERE GIVEN?
UNFORTUNATELY, MY HUNGER GAVE WAY TO THE DEFENDANT'S HALF-EATEN CANDY BAR.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

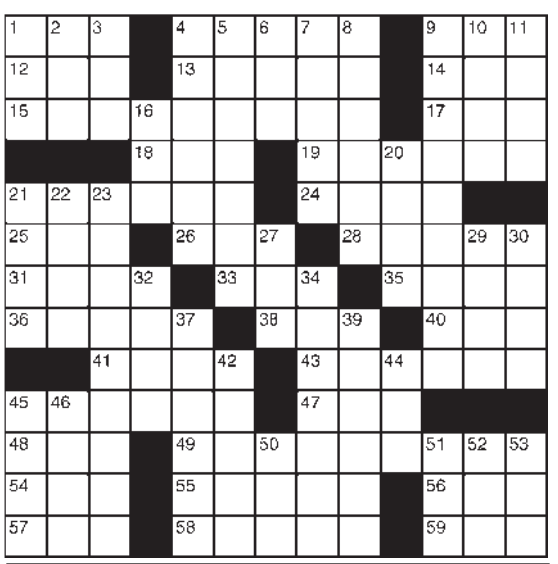
1 Poke
4 Talk a blue streak?
9 Standard
12 Music's Yoko
13 Arizona city
14 Regret
15 Vices
17 Vein yield
18 Mornings (Abbr.)
19 Deadly
21 Small stock purchase
24 Bigfoot's cousin
25 For each
26 Moment
28 — Ferry, N.Y.
31 Yale students
33 Knock
35 Brooches
36 Star
38 Director Craven
40 Make lace
41 Floral rings
43 Dissertation
45 Group within a group
47 "Terrif!"
48 "Do — say!"
49 Crunchy salad morsels
54 Retrieve
55 "Adam Bede" author
56 Feathery wrap
57 Ninny
58 Prepared
59 Cattle call

DOWN

1 Task
2 Actress Gasteyer
3 Physique
4 John of "Full House"
5 Dictionary name
6 Brit. record label
7 In a proper way
8 Plant anew
9 Bans
10 Mystique
11 Stagger
16 Actor Holbrook
20 Sporty car roof
21 Oil cartel
22 Editing mark
23 Boring things?
27 Cornfield noise
29 — B'rith
30 Bygone jets
32 Beholds
34 Kitty's bowlful
37 "Baby" singer Justin
39 Crude dwelling
42 Trite
44 Recede
45 Long story
46 Exploits
50 Spy org.
51 "Big Blue"
52 As well
53 — Paulo

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 10/18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Efron, 34; Esperanza Spalding, 37; Freida Pinto, 37; Wynton Marsalis, 60.

Happy Birthday: Establish what you want, and find out how to achieve peace of mind and happiness. A positive outlook will contribute to turning your dream into a reality. Comfort and convenience at home will make it easier to deal with outside influences. Make decisions that will encourage a lifestyle that reflects who you are and what you want to do. Your numbers are 8, 11, 25, 27, 30, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Dig in, get the facts, formulate a plan and leave nothing to chance. A suggestion will lead to updating the way you present yourself to others. Being fit and participating in events that interest you will broaden your awareness. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Go over personal documentation to make sure everything is updated. An opportunity will require you to step outside your comfort zone. Think twice before you put yourself in an awkward situation. Handle pressure with savvy, and you'll overcome fear. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Focus on what's important to you and the best way to get what you want. A work-related matter will broaden your scope and boost your morale. A partnership will encourage you to dedicate more time to things that matter to you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Consider the pros and cons of any situation before you make promises. Don't let an emotional issue spiral into an argument that can disrupt your plans. Be prepared to proceed alone, if necessary. You may not welcome change, but it is essential. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consider the result you are trying to achieve, and make arrangements to help you reach your goal. Discipline will be necessary if you want to avoid temptation. Upgrade your surroundings to suit your economic situation. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be diligent regarding your health and well-being. Take an intelligent approach to fitness, proper diet, attending events. Walk away from anyone putting pressure on you. Reevaluate manipulative relationships, and make a lifestyle adjustment. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't be fooled by just anyone's interest. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too accommodating. Focus on taking care of your responsibilities, and do the best you can. You'll offset someone's efforts to take over. Learn from past mistakes. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Leave nothing to chance. Take care of personal matters yourself. Look for a unique way to organize your space, and put aside time to spend with someone who lifts your spirits. Confusion or inconsistency in a relationship will lead to change. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Check out the possibilities yourself. If you rely on someone, you will miss out on something spectacular. An emotional plea someone makes will not be warranted. Make decisions that are going to benefit you. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a moment to rethink your financial plans. Keep your emotions under control, and you'll avoid paying for something you don't need or want. A joint venture will require work and persuasive tactics if you want to prevent loss. Defuse anger. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Your determination and dedication will pay off. Discuss your plans with someone you love, and you'll come up with a blueprint that will map out your financial future. Consistency will play a role in achieving your goal. Set a reasonable budget. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Have patience when dealing with friends and relatives. Being a good listener will give insight into how best to respond to someone asking for too much. Set guidelines, but don't pay for someone else's mistake. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, charming and dedicated. You are outgoing and accommodating.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8				5		
	3			9				6
2			6	3	5	7		
		5	4			2		
	7	2				5	1	
		3			8	4		
		9	3	5	6			2
8				1			4	
	5					6		

Difficulty Level ★ 10/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	5	4	3	6	9	7	1	2
7	6	3	2	8	1	9	5	4
9	2	1	4	7	5	6	8	3
3	4	9	6	1	2	5	7	8
5	1	8	9	4	7	2	3	6
6	7	2	5	3	8	4	9	1
2	8	6	7	5	3	1	4	9
1	9	7	8	2	4	3	6	5
4	3	5	1	9	6	8	2	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WALKING YOUR DOG Solution: 7 letters

N	L	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	D	T	R	A	I	L
A	E	F	E	T	C	H	T	V	N	D	A	I	L	Y
T	A	I	P	E	T	S	I	A	U	E	L	E	T	R
U	S	N	G	R	A	S	S	H	O	U	M	E	P	H
R	H	S	E	H	A	R	N	E	S	S	F	A	E	S
E	A	A	P	W	B	E	C	B	B	A	R	A	G	H
N	T	L	A	E	M	O	A	A	S	K	L	A	E	T
N	A	T	L	I	T	C	R	N	T	T	B	E	N	A
Y	E	E	T	O	K	K	A	H	H	C	T	D	I	P
R	A	A	W	Y	C	C	B	Y	O	U	H	I	T	R
D	O	E	A	D	K	R	T	D	O	O	I	U	U	A
C	L	R	H	L	E	V	A	R	T	N	D	G	O	I
A	D	I	R	E	L	A	X	A	O	W	N	E	R	S
R	K	G	D	I	B	O	O	T	S	P	A	W	S	E
E	C	N	E	F	F	O	R	E	S	T	S	T	A	Y

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Backyard, Bags, Bark, Behave, Boots, Breed, Care, Catch, Coat, Collar, Daily, Fence, Fetch, Field, Follow, Forest, Game, Grass, Guide, Harness, Health, Heel, Hike, Hydrate, Lead, Leash, Meal, Nature, Neighborhood, Owner, Park, Path, Paws, Pets, Play, Praise, Relax, Route, Routine, Safety, Sit, Smell, Snack, Sniff, Sound, Sport, Stay, Time, Towel, Trail, Travel, Treat, Water

Last Friday's Answer: Shabu-Shabu

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Boston's 2 slams lead 9-5 ALCS win over Astros

HOUSTON (AP)—J.D. Martinez and Rafael Devers helped the Red Sox have a grand old time in Houston.

Boston became the first team to slug two grand slams in a postseason game, with Martinez and Devers connecting in the first two innings of a 9-5 win over the Astros on Saturday that tied their AL Championship Series at one game apiece.

Game 3 is Monday night in Boston. It's the first of three consecutive home games for the Red Sox, back in the playoffs for the first time since winning the 2018 World Series after downing Houston in the ALCS.

Martinez made it 4-0 with his opposite-field shot off rookie Luis García with two outs in the first. It was the first career playoff slam for the four-time All-Star, who began his career with the Astros.

"That situation, the pressure is on him, it's not on me to come through there," Martinez said. "It's the first inning. He has bases loaded. I'm trying to tell myself that, trying to stay relaxed and just looking for a pitch so I can just put a barrel on it."

García exited with right knee discomfort after walking the first batter of the second inning. Jake Odorizzi took over, and shortly after a 13-minute delay while the right-hander warmed up on the field, Devers connected with one out for slam No. 2.

"J.D.'s swing was huge to get us on the board early, and then Raffy, same thing, another granny," red-hot teammate Kiké Hernández said. "Has that ever happened before?"

It has now.

Hernández, who Boston manager Alex Cora referred to Friday night as "en fuego" after a two-homer performance in Game 1, remained on fire Saturday. He had two hits, highlighted by a solo homer in the fourth inning.

Hernández has been this postseason's hottest hitter, leading all players with 16 hits, five homers and four doubles. His nine extra-base hits are also the most in these playoffs and tied a Red Sox postseason record with Mike Lowell (2007), Kevin Youkilis (2007) and David Ortiz (2004 & 2007). His five homers are also tied for most in team history with Ortiz (2004, 2013) and Todd Walker (2003).

"The importance of the game is allowing me to stay focused and stay locked in," Hernández said.

Red Sox starter Nathan Eovaldi permitted five hits and three runs in 5 1/3 innings.

AP

Boston Red Sox's J.D. Martinez celebrates his grand slam against the Houston Astros during the first inning in Game 2 of baseball's American League Championship Series Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, in Houston.

The Astros captured a 5-4 win in the series opener as they rallied behind homers from Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa before falling into the huge hole early in this one.

"That's a tough team," Cora said. "It's never comfortable with them because they're a swing away from getting back in the game."

The Red Sox were up 9-0 when Houston got on the board with an RBI double by Kyle Tucker with two outs in the fourth. The Astros cut the lead to 9-3 when Yuli Gurriel followed with single to right field that scored two more.

Gurriel and Jason Castro added solo homers in the ninth off Darwinzon Hernandez before Ryan Brasier got the final out.

"At the end, it was a little too close for comfort, but we got it done," Hernández said.

Manager Dusty Baker isn't sure how long García will be out, but he said that he'd been dealing with this issue "on and off" but didn't tell anyone about it.

"It wasn't bothering him enough not to pitch,'" Baker said. "We'll make a determination in a couple of days."

The injury to García is another blow to a Houston team trying to reach the World Series for the second time in three years. The Astros are already reeling after an injury to staff ace Lance McCullers Jr. that kept him off the roster for this series.

They won the championship in 2017, a crown tainted by the team's sign-stealing scandal.

When McCullers went out, Baker said the team would just have to "hit more" to absorb the loss. But now that the rotation is further depleted, it'll be an even taller task for this powerful lineup outgunning a Boston team whose offense has outpaced everyone this postseason.

So what is he asking from his offense now?

"Do some more," he said with a chuckle while shaking his head. "You don't have much choice, so we just have to do some more. That's all."

Odorizzi was left off the Division Series roster after a disappointing first season in Houston before getting a spot in this round after the injury to McCullers. He allowed seven hits and four runs in four innings Saturday in a performance that certainly isn't good news for a team that is running short on starters.

Altuve and Michael Brantley, the top two hitters in Houston's lineup, are a combined 2 for 17 in the series with a hit each, including Altuve's homer in Game 1.

Odorizzi was caught off guard when he was thrust into the game and hadn't even stretched when he was called to the mound.

"I'm sure it felt like forever for y'all, but for me that was about the fastest I can warm up," he said. "It usually takes me 30-plus minutes."

Cora was asked if the lengthy delay impacted his team's focus.

"It really didn't matter if it was an hour delay or whatever," Cora said. "We were locked in."

Braves 3, Dodgers 2

In Atlanta, a couple of clutch swings from breakout slugger Austin Riley got the underdog Atlanta Braves off to a fast start in the NL Championship Series.

Riley homered and drove in the winning run with a single in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Atlanta a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 on Saturday night.

Blake Treinen struck out Freddie Freeman to open the ninth before giving up Ozzie Albies' bloop single to center field. Albies stole second and Riley followed with his line drive into the left-field corner.

"That was my mindset — put something in play and see what happens," Riley said after delivering the first walk-off hit of his career.

The 24-year-old slugger spread his arms in celebration as he rounded first base before getting mobbed by teammates in a happy swarm that carried into shallow center field.

"You dream of that as a little kid," Riley said.

Albies told first-base coach Eric Young Sr. he would be taking off to steal second so he could get in scoring position.

"I knew (Riley) was going to do the job," Albies said.

"As soon as he hit it, I took off. I started yelling, screaming all the way to home plate."

Riley also homered in the fourth. The third baseman set career highs across the board for NL East champion Atlanta this year in his third major league season, batting .303 with 33 homers, 107 RBIs and an .898 OPS in a league-leading 160 games.

"He's come a long way in a short time, I feel like. Even last year, I think that he didn't have all these tools. He can beat you in so many ways now, and he always had that power, but now he's putting together such good at-bats," Dodgers infielder Trea Turner said.

"He's a polished hitter and hats off to him because I think he's gotten to the point where he's been a really good player and there's a reason why fans are chanting MVP for him."

Riley's big game was especially important as Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman struck out four times against four different Los Angeles pitchers after having only one four-strikeout game in the regular season.

Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said Riley has proven he can take that lead role.

"I think that kid has definitely taken the next step forward," Snitker said.

The teams are meeting in the NL Championship Series for the second consecutive season. The Dodgers rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win last year's playoff in seven games before also winning the World Series.

Game 2 is Sunday night in Atlanta before the series shifts to Los Angeles.

The wild-card Dodgers wasted a scoring opportunity in the top of the ninth. Will Smith got two outs before walking Chris Taylor. Pinch-hitter Cody Bellinger hit a soft single to right field, but Taylor got caught and tagged out in a rundown between second and third that started with right fielder Joc Pederson's throw to shortstop Dansby Swanson.

"I thought if he would have kept going, he might have had a chance at third," Riley said. "But that was a great play by Dansby. Just being able to get out of that inning there was huge."

Corey Knebel worked one inning as the Dodgers' opener in a bullpen game, giving up one run. Eddie Rosario led off with a single, stole second, moved to third on Albies' groundout and scored on Knebel's wild pitch to Riley.

The Dodgers, who won 18 more games than Atlanta during the regular season, pulled even in the second on AJ Pollock's two-out double and Taylor's RBI single.

Will Smith's homer in the fourth, his third of the postseason, gave the Dodgers a 2-1 lead. Riley's two-out homer off Tony Gonsolin in the fourth tied it.

The Dodgers outhit the Braves 10-6 but left runners on base in each of the first seven innings except the fourth. Los Angeles hitters were 1 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

"We prevented runs all night. So we didn't not win the game because we didn't prevent runs," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "We just didn't get the hits when we needed."

No Braves pitcher posted a perfect inning until the eighth, when Luke Jackson got three consecutive outs.

Justin Turner, who was 2 for 24 in the Dodgers' first two postseason rounds, had one hit. Albert Pujols was held without a hit on three groundouts before popping out in the ninth.

Braves starter Max Fried gave up two runs and eight hits in six innings. He threw 23 consecutive strikes, the most in a postseason game in 20 years, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"I don't know that Max really felt like he was on tonight," Snitker said. "Max just kept pitching."

Snitker was surprised to learn his hitters had 14 strikeouts in the game.

"I had no idea we struck out that many times," he said. "I'm not sitting there with a clicker."

Brady throws 2 TD passes, Buccaneers beat Eagles, 28-22

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— The Tampa Bay Buccaneers keep losing key players and stockpiling victories.

Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes, Leonard Fournette ran for two scores and the Buccaneers beat the Philadelphia Eagles 28-22 on Thursday night.

The defending Super Bowl champion Buccaneers (5-1) lost another cornerback when three-time All-Pro Richard Sherman left in the first quarter with a hamstring injury, but their depleted defense held on after Jalen Hurts rallied the Eagles from a 28-7 deficit.

"It's tough to win on the road," Brady said. "Obviously, we didn't play our best so we have to get back to work ... We got to get better."

Playing with an injured thumb, Brady came out firing. The 44-year-old, seven-time Super Bowl champion tossed TD passes on Tampa Bay's first two drives while going 11 for 12 for 121 yards.

His best play came after Hurts' second TD run and a 2-point conversion pulled Philadelphia within six points with 3:05 left in the fourth quarter.

Facing a third-and-7 from Philadelphia's 45, Brady rolled away from pressure and threw a perfect pass to Antonio Brown for a 27-yard gain to extend the drive and the Bucs ran out the clock.

"It was a great route, hell of a throw as Tom got out of the pocket," Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians said. "Couple times this year he slipped out of the pocket to the right and made a big play down the field."

AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady shouts as he runs on to the field before an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, in Philadelphia.

Brady finished 34 of 42 for 297 yards and an interception. He insisted his thumb, which was taped, is fine.

"I feel great, awesome," he said. "It's football season. I feel good. Really do."

The Eagles (2-4) are winless in three home games under rookie coach Nick Sirianni. They heard boos at halftime but fought back to make it close.

"We were bad in the first half. Put that one on me," Sirianni said. "There's no doubt our offense needs to be better to give ourselves a chance to win."

Brady's 2-yard TD pass to O.J. Howard gave the Buccaneers a 7-0 lead. The Eagles answered on Hurts' 5-yard scoring pass to Zach Ertz. Brady then hit Brown for a 23-yard TD pass to make it 14-7.

After two straight three-and-out series, Brady led the Bucs on another scoring drive with Fournette running in from the 2 to extend the lead to 21-7. Tampa increased its lead to 28-7 when Fournette walked in from the 1 in the third quarter.

Fournette ran for 81 yards and caught six passes for 46 yards.

"Having that year under my belt makes a big difference understanding it," said Fournette, who signed with Tampa Bay shortly before last season after he was cut by Jacksonville. "The sky's the limit for me."

Brady was 19 of 22 before missing three straight passes late in the second quarter, including a deep ball intercepted by Anthony Harris that ended his streak of 227 passes without a pick.

The Buccaneers were already missing cornerbacks Carlton Davis and Sean Murphy-Bunting and safety Antoine Winfield before Sherman went down on Philadelphia's first drive. Sherman was quickly ruled out. Arians wasn't certain the severity of the injury.

"We just have to keep playing with the guys we have and see how long the injury is. Next man up," Arians said.

Still, against a patchwork secondary, Hurts struggled throwing the ball. He was 12 of 26 for 155 yards, one TD and one interception. Hurts ran for 44 yards and two scores.

"I haven't executed enough to win, clearly," Hurts said. "The ball is in my hands every play and I enjoy that and I like that. I have to be better. I'm not doing enough to win. I'm not doing enough to start fast. I will be better."

Hurts fired the ball toward the stands after running into the end zone for his second TD, causing a security guard to duck and three-time AL MVP Mike Trout to flinch in his front-row seat. Trout, who grew up in nearby Millville, New Jersey, is a huge Eagles fan.

The Eagles inducted left tackle Tra Thomas and right tackle Jon Runyan into the team's Hall of Fame during a halftime ceremony. The duo started 134 regular-season games together from 2000-08. During that span, the Eagles reached the playoffs seven times, won five NFC East titles, reached five conference championship games and one Super Bowl.

Crackdown on taunting is working the way the NFL intended

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL's crackdown on unsportsmanlike penalties is working the way the league intended.

Officials threw 11 flags for taunting in the first two weeks of this season — the same number called in the entire 2020 season for the same foul — but only three over the next three weeks.

"We're right where we need to be and we're now seeing the correction we were looking for," NFL executive Troy Vincent told The Associated Press. "We saw the spike the first three weeks and now we're seeing the decline. The coaches and the NFL Competition Committee are pleased. Coaches have told us their players are adjusting, they're thinking about what they're going to do, knowing it may cost the team. These are game-changing penalties for a selfish act."

Week 6 kicked off with a taunting penalty occurring in an important moment during a prime-time game, adding to the widespread scrutiny over the rule. Players, media and fans have been critical. But the league has no plans to tell officials to back off because the goal is to eliminate foul actions that result from gesturing and in-your-face trash-talking.

After the Philadelphia Eagles rallied from a 21-point deficit against the defending Super Bowl champion Buccaneers to cut the score to 28-22 with 3:05 left in the fourth quarter Thursday night, the defense needed to stop Tom Brady and Tampa Bay's offense to give the ball back to Jalen Hurts and a rejuvenated offense.

On first down from the Buccaneers 25, Leonard Fournette gained only 2 yards but linebacker Genard Avery stared at him and went face to face with the running back as he stood up, drawing a flag for taunting. The 15-yard penalty gave the Buccaneers a first down and they eventually ran out the clock.

Avery's transgression seemed mild, so the NFL drew even more criticism for making taunting calls a point of emphasis this season.

The league's decision to emphasize these calls came directly from the NFL Competition Committee and the Coaches' Subcommittee. Members from both groups include team owners, presidents, general managers and coaches, including Mike Tomlin, Ron Rivera and Andy Reid.

"The coaches felt over the last few years it had gotten out of control. We cannot move away from sportsmanship being the core of our game," said Vincent, a six-time Pro Bowl cornerback who now serves as the league's executive vice president of football operations. "Sportsmanship has always been the core. The rules are very clear. Don't do it toward the opponent's sideline or at the opponent. That doesn't mean you can't celebrate, you can't have fun, you can't have spontaneous actions. You can jump, flip, celebrate. You just can't do it at an opponent. It leads to bad outcomes like players spitting at each other's face, players throwing punches and fighting, players kicking and stomping one other. Make a play like a professional and get back in the huddle. You can have fun, but you cannot get in another player's face. It leads to bad outcomes."

Even though Avery's actions weren't over the top, the penalty was called according to the rule.

Eagles coach Nick Sirianni had no problem with the officials.

"Again, that was unacceptable and that falls on me first," he said. "I have to do a better job getting everybody doing the right things out there and keeping our composure out there."

Fournette knew he couldn't retaliate against Avery because officials are looking for unsportsmanlike behavior more than ever.

"Imagine if I would've said something back, (the penalty) could've went both ways and my team would've been looking at me crazy and the loss would've been on me," he said.

Fournette acknowledged he may have engaged Avery if the Buccaneers were winning big but added: "In a critical moment like that, knowing we need this game, no."

More than a glitch: Jon Gruden dropped by Madden video game

Jon Gruden is being dropped from the Madden NFL 22 video game after he resigned as coach of the Las Vegas Raiders because it was reported that he used racist, homophobic and misogynistic language in emails.

EA Sports tweeted Wednesday that it was "taking steps to remove" Gruden from the latest version of its popular pro football game and would "replace him with a general likeness via a title update in the coming weeks."

The game maker said it is "committed to taking action in maintaining a culture of inclusion and equity."

The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported that, from 2011-18 while he was an ESPN analyst between coaching jobs, Gruden used offensive terms in messages he wrote to former Washington club executive Bruce Allen.

Gruden stepped down Monday night during the fourth season of a 10-year, $10 million deal with the Raiders. He was 22-31 with no playoff appearances in his second stint with the team.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the club he led to a Super Bowl title nearly two decades ago, removed him from the Ring of Honor at Raymond James Stadium on Tuesday. ***(AP)***

Team Kio tames Devil Dog's for 14th straight win

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team Kio remained perfect after earning its 14th win with a 93-52 lambasting of second-running Devil Dog Warriors last Friday in the Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Seeing action in the opener, the Devil Dog Warriors played physical from the get-go to try and bait Team Kio from losing their cool. The undefeated team still led after the first 10 minutes of action though, 19-12, and then only increased the advantage at halftime, 38-20.

It was more of the same in the second half, as Team Kio just played their A game. A clearly frustrated Devil Dog Warriors tried to blame the referees for their ineffective play on the court and failure to get their opponents off their comfort zone. In all, four technical fouls were called on Devil Dog Warriors.

Team Kio continued on cruise control in the third scoring 31 led by the 10 points of Paka Sablan and the 7 markers of leading scorer Robert Reyes. Team Kio also limited their opponents to a measly 8 points to open a whopping 69-28 edge heading into the fourth and final quarter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team Kio and Devil Dog Warriors players in action in last Friday's Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Sablan and Reyes then got some added offensive boost from Peter Cepeda in the final 10 minutes of the contest. The key reserve scattered 6 points and grabbed key rebounds in the payoff period, as Team Kio coasted to the 93-51 victory.

Reyes paced Team Kio in the win with 21 points, followed by the 19 points of Paka Sablan. Zjonti Kubinski scored 19 for Devil Dog Warriors, which absorbed only its third loss in 13 games,

In the second game, Power Builders posted its second straight win after upsetting Rampage, 66-59. The latter missed key players Wesley Walker, Toram Borja, Eptes Epity, and Rudy Borja due to suspension.

Leo Pascua tried his best by shooting the light out when he finally arrived in the third quarter. His five 3-pointers in the period, however, proved futile as Power Builders still completed the surprise win as J.R. Libut was unstoppable inside the paint, leading the team with 26 big points. It was the fourth win in 13 matches for Power Builders, while Rampage, which was led by the 18 points of Jayron Epity, dropped to 10-3. On Friday, Power Builders also beat Team CNMI, 87-81.

First Game

Team Kio 93 – Reyes 21, P. Sablan 19, Cepeda 17, King 11, D. Sablan 10, Sanchez 8, Cabrera 2.

Devil Dog Warriors 51 – Kubinski 19, Kada 7, Montgomery 7, Ogaldez 6, James 4, Sakalan 4, Beal 2, Lapan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 38-20, 69-28, 93-51.

Second Game

Power Builders 66 – J. Libut 26, Castro 19, Apatan 7, Guanlao 6, Sanchez 3, Dumdum 2,

Rampage 59 – Epity 18, Pascua 17, Dela Cruz 10, Johannes 7, Cepeda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-6, 33-28, 48-54, 66-59.

Irving: Refusal to get vaccinated about 'what's best for me'

NEW YORK (AP)—Kyrie Irving said Wednesday he didn't want to lose salary or a chance to compete for a championship with the Brooklyn Nets, but was doing "what's best for me" by refusing to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Nets decided Tuesday that Irving wouldn't be with the team because he isn't eligible to play in home games, where a New York mandate requires professional athletes on one of the city's teams to be vaccinated to practice or play in public venues.

Speaking on Instagram Live, Irving said he loved basketball and wasn't going to retire.

"I am doing what's best for me. I know the consequences here and if it means that I'm judged and demonized for that, that's just what it is," Irving said. "That's the role I play, but I never wanted to give up my passion, my love, my dream just over this mandate."

Irving would have been able to practice with the Nets and play in road games outside New York. The Nets will pay him for those but he is giving up about half of his $35 million salary by missing the home games.

"So what? It's not about the money," Irving said. "It's not always about the money. It's about choosing what's best for you. You think I really want to lose money?"

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	172	64
New England	2	3	0	.400	96	92
Miami	1	4	0	.200	79	154
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0	.200	67	121
South						
Tennessee	3	2	0	.600	132	130
Houston	1	4	0	.200	89	141
Indianapolis	1	4	0	.200	108	128
Jacksonville	0	5	0	.000	93	152
North						
Baltimore	4	1	0	.800	136	117
Cincinnati	3	2	0	.600	114	100
Cleveland	3	2	0	.600	142	114
Pittsburgh	2	3	0	.400	94	112
West						
L.A. Chargers	4	1	0	.800	142	116
Denver	3	2	0	.600	102	76
Las Vegas	3	2	0	.600	113	120
Kansas City	2	3	0	.400	154	163

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	4	1	0	.800	170	117
Washington	2	3	0	.400	123	155
Philadelphia	2	4	0	.333	137	152
N.Y. Giants	1	4	0	.200	103	139
South						
Tampa Bay	5	1	0	.833	195	144
Carolina	3	2	0	.600	115	87
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600	127	91
Atlanta	2	3	0	.400	105	148
North						
Green Bay	4	1	0	.800	120	122
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	84	100
Minnesota	2	3	0	.400	113	109
Detroit	0	5	0	.000	98	138
West						
Arizona	5	0	0	1.000	157	95
L.A. Rams	4	1	0	.800	141	116
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400	117	119
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	120	126

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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in second and third with their 263 and 306, respectively. Zhimin topped the junior women after shooting a 263 with Oh second at 351.

Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations president Edward Manibusan congratulated all those who made it to the national team and also thanked everyone who took part in the last five qualifiers. He also thanked the Coral Ocean Resort for agreeing to host the golf event for next year's Mini Games and also the Mini Games organizing committee led by CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta.

"The team that will represent the CNMI will be a great team and we're so proud of you guys for doing such a great job. In the next few months this team is going to get together and practice and represent the CNMI and I'm sure they will try their best to win the gold," he said.

For J.J. Atalig, it will be his second time representing the CNMI in the golf competition of the Mini Games, having donned the Commonwealth's colors in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

"I feel good. I worked hard to be part of the team. We look forward to just trying to get medals because that's the goal."

The final qualifier also saw all golfers vying for a place in the national team walk the course instead of using a golf cart.

"Walking was good despite the rain this morning when we first started. The weather actually cooperated after that. So it worked out pretty good," said Atalig.

Tenorio, who in the past represented the CNMI in regional competitions in baseball, said it's a "big honor" to again make the national team for golf this time.

"It's not easy to make the team. Conditions were really tough today. When we started the rain was really coming hard and the wind was blowing. We just tried to control what best we could and play out until the sun came out. Conditions got better and we tried to maximize because COP is a very long golf course," he said.

Tenorio said walking the course compared to riding a golf cart was a huge difference.

"Walking you get fatigued easily when you're not used to it. Riding in a cart you get very lazy and you don't walk that much. It made a big impact in the game today because not only did you have to walk but you have to keep focus and play against the elements and a very tough group of guys."

Koebel said she's very proud to represent the CNMI in next year's Mini Games.

"It's tough today because of the rain and it's a very long course. Specially today the front nine was very tough for me and in the back nine it heated up. It was hot!"

Li, a 13-year-old student from Dandan Middle School, said playing in the final qualifier was tough. "It was really hard. I played OK. It was fun, but it was very hard. It was very tiring [walking] but after a while it was OK. I shot OK. I'm very excited to be part of the CNMI team to the Mini Games next year. There will be a lot of people coming from other places," he said.

Zhimin seconded Li when she said she's very proud to be representing her home islands in the quadrennial event next year.

"I feel very honored and happy at the same time," said the 14-year-old Marianas High School student.

When asked about the ban on golf carts on the fifth qualifier, Zhimin said it really didn't matter. " I don't really saw the difference [between walking and riding a cart]."

SEMINAR

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have two sessions—from 10am to 12pm and from 1pm to 3pm. While there is no fee to join the seminar, there is a $10 suggested donation fee for participants.

To register, clock on the link https://signup.com/go/vRLwNio. Those who ran out of slots don't need to worry, as Run Saipan will hold another running seminar soon.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. invited avid runners and those who are just starting to pick up the hobby to take part in the seminar. He also thanked Tan Siu Lin Foundation for sponsoring the workshop.

"On behalf of Run Saipan we would love to thank TSL so much for being able to sponsor this event. Because of them, we are able to make this a free seminar for people that want to run injury free. It's just simply amazing when you have businesses that supports a healthier CNMI. Thank you so much TSLF!" he said.

For more information on the "The Right Way to Run for YOU" workshop, email Dela Cruz at runsaipan@gmail.com or call him at 287-0891.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Four of the V6 outrigger canoes were latched together by pieces of 4x4 and rigged to V12s for training purposes.

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ing pool immediately rigged two of the V6 and transformed them into a V12.

"We rigged them as V12 for training for the next two months. We plan to use the V12 to work on techniques and blending," said Andrew.

While he has yet to paddle on the new outrigger canoes, the NMNPSF president already knows that they will certainly be lighter and faster.

"The new canoes designs are very different from those we have been using at Kilili Beach and besides almost all our paddlers have not paddled and or raced on the new canoes types. That's why I asked for four now so we can get an early start on getting to know the canoe better."

Babauta said the outrigger canoes that they just turned over to NMNPSF was sourced from the $4 million the CNMI government set aside for the staging of the Mini Games in 2022. He said after the Mini Games, they plan to turnover some of the units to the interscholastic program of the Public School System and also to clubs on Tinian and Rota.

Boston's 2 slams lead 9-5 ALCS win over Astros

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Sports

Team Kio tames Devil Dog's for 12th straight win

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Mini Games golf team named

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

CNMI National Golf Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 poses after their selection following the final qualifier last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Resort. Flanking them are Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, left, and organizing committee chair Marco Peter.

The CNMI saw its first national team for next year's Pacific Mini Games named when 13 golfers were selected following the final qualifier last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan.

Making up the CNMI National Golf Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 are J.J. Atalig, Peter "Dung" Tenorio, Harry Nakamura, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, and Franco Santos for the men, Nirimai Koebel, Rose Rohringer, and Janet Torres for the women, Li Zhi Yun, Joshua Atalig, and Antonio Norita for the junior men, and Zhimin Jin and Sorian Oh for the junior women.

Atalig topped the five-round qualifier for the men's that started last July 21 with a 227 followed by Tenorio (230), Nakamura (232), Camacho (237), and Franco (244). Marco Peter actually beat Franco in a tiebreak after both wound up with identical scores, but Peter yielded to Franco so he can concentrate on his duties as chairman of the Pacific Mini Games organizing committee.

Koebel finished No. 1 among the women with her 277 with Rohringer and Torres coming in tied in second place with their 293. Li was first in the junior men with his 247. Atalig and Norita came

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4 outrigger canoes turned over to *va'a* federation

By MARK RABAGO
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Two boats stopped traffic along Beach Road last Saturday after the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee turned over the spanking new outrigger canoes to the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation.

Organizing committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta said they wanted the *va'a* federation to get the V6 outrigger canoes immediately so they can start their training in earnest.

"What happened was we were trying to get a lowboy. It's available but there's a cost to it. So I asked the federation to asses if they can just carry it themselves and they said, 'yeah they can.' So they did it this morning (Saturday)," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the *va's* national team training pool for next year's Mini Games literally stopped traffic along Beach Road last Saturday while carrying one of the spanking new V6 outrigger canoes.

Babauta said the two canoes are part of the four they turned over to the NMNPSF. In all, the organizing committee for next year's quadrennial event ordered 36 outrigger canoes—18 of the V6 type and 18 of the V1 type for single paddlers.

NMNPSF president Justin Andrew said the umbrella organization of all outrigger canoe clubs on Saipan couldn't be happier with the turnover of the four V6 outrigger canoes.

"I am most grateful to the organizing committee for approving my request for the four canoes. Having the four canoes now will allow us time to begin training on them most especially when the canoes that we will use in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games are different models. Almost all of our paddlers here have never paddled or competed on these types of canoes, except for the few men who competed in the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea," he said.

Wasting no time, members of the *va's* national team train-

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Orthopedic specialist to hold running seminar

By MARK RABAGO
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A board-certified orthopedic specialist will be holding a running seminar on Oct. 23 at the Eucon Medical Health Services along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation and organized by Run Saipan, "The Right Way to Run for YOU" workshop will be conducted by T.J. Bellama. A board-certified orthopedic specialist, Bellama has worked with all types of runners—from joggers trying to lose weight, to recreational runners, to professional and Olympic athletes. He has taught running analysis courses to medical professionals from all over the world.

Bellama

The running seminar promises attendees that it would help them find their style, their footwear, and how to run without injury. At the end of the running seminar, Bellama would help attendees to finally answer these age-old running questions:

- What are the right running shoes for me?
- How do runners get hurt?
- Why do runners get hurt?
- How can we prevent those injuries?
- How do I know what type of runner I am?
- What running style is best for me?
- How much should I run?

The two-hour seminar will

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